

EMBER 26, 1995

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CNN-TV (K)

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Turkey urges Iraqi

Kurds to disarm

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey

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have been lost. They have

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Turkish sponsored talks at which they agreed to a

a truce.

Mubarak insists Israel probe massacres

NEW YORK (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said he would press Israel to investigate alleged Israeli military massacres of Egyptian war prisoners, the New York Times reported Tuesday. Mr. Mubarak, in an interview Monday at his home in the Cairo suburb of Heliopolis, said he had put off raising the delicate question with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin while he was negotiating with the Palestinians. "I didn't want to create a problem while negotiating with the Palestinians, and it was enough for Rabin to have this problem," Mr. Mubarak told the New York Times. But he warned that Egypt insisted on answers to its queries about how many Egyptian war prisoners and civilians were killed by Israeli troops during the wars in 1956 and 1967. Israel has not replied to his government's demand for an investigation, he said, and public opinion in Egypt is taking the case very seriously. "We told the Israelis this situation cannot be solved unless you start an investigation ... Whoever committed a crime should be put before the courts so as not to create a misunderstanding between the two countries," he said.

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SLA militiaman wounded by bomb

MARJAYOUN (AFP) — The Iranian-backed Hezbollah bombed a patrol of Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) on Tuesday, wounding a militiaman, the SLA said. Hezbollah said two militiamen were killed and others wounded when its commandos detonated a roadside bomb near an SLA patrol in the border zone occupied by Israel in South Lebanon. But an SLA spokesman said one militiaman was wounded in the bomb attack in the western sector of the Israeli-held zone. The attack came a day after Hezbollah shelled an Israeli army position in the occupied zone killing two Israeli soldiers and wounding an officer.

Turkey urges Iraqi Kurds to disarm

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey has urged rival Iraqi Kurds to prolong a truce and work for lasting peace in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, a Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday. "We proposed that they extend the ceasefire and stressed the importance we attach to a restoration of peace," he said after talks in Ankara Monday between the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). He added it was "just as important to stop" Turkish Kurd separatists of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) from establishing themselves in the region. Kurdish officials said Monday that the Turkish Foreign Ministry had urged the two groups to work to extend indefinitely the ceasefire agreed on Aug. 11. The two groups, which have jointly controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since after the 1991 Gulf war, have clashed over power-sharing and tax revenues since May 1994. More than 2,000 lives have been lost. They have met twice in Ireland for U.S. and Turkish sponsored talks at which they agreed to a truce.

Palestinians see peace shortlived

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Six out of 10 Palestinians do not expect a lasting peace with Israel, according to an opinion poll published Tuesday. The Centre for Palestinian Research and Studies found that 60 per cent believed peace would be short-lived and only 19 per cent that it would really last. Another 12 per cent said peace would last to "some extent" and four per cent to a "large extent." The remainder of the 1,190 Gazans and West Bankers questioned by the Nablus-based centre said they did not know. The survey was carried out in September before Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) struck an agreement on Sunday to extend autonomy over the West Bank.

Rifkind refuses to meet Velayati

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind Tuesday said he would not meet with his Iranian counterpart this year at the United Nations, partly because of Iran's stand on the Salman Rushdie affair. Mr. Rifkind told a news conference Tuesday that he would not meet with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati during this year's U.N. General Assembly. Britain and Iran have had bilateral talks every year in recent memory. "I think a combination of factors mean there will be no such meeting," he said, first citing "other pressing" engagements. "I believe also there has not yet been satisfactory progress with regard to Rushdie that we consider necessary and desire," Mr. Rifkind said. "That is a matter of regret, but that is a fact which cannot be ignored." Earlier this month, Iran refused to give a written promise not to seek to kill Mr. Rushdie whom it condemned to death in a fatwa six years ago.

Thai premier to perform rites to beat eclipse jinx

BANGKOK, Thailand — The country's star astrologer, Dr. Archa Moesethi, said bad luck that will affect the government was inevitable. But he said Mr. Rifkind could soften the blow if performed a traditional ceremony.

"According to statistics,

Libya said to have ordered expulsion of all Palestinians

Arafat appeals to Qadhafi to halt move
300,000 Sudanese also face ouster

Combined agency dispatches

LIBYAN LEADER Muammar Qadhafi on Tuesday reportedly ordered all Palestinians to leave the country within 24 hours to 48 hours and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat immediately appealed to Colonel Qadhafi to stop the expulsions.

The expulsion order was disclosed by a Libyan official at the Salloum border point with Egypt who also said that the first wave of 1,500 Palestinians were expected to the frontier soon.

In Khartoum, a Sudanese official said Col. Qadhafi had also ordered the expulsion of 300,000 Sudanese from his country.

About 300,000 Sudanese are to be deported from Libya "as part of internal measures by the Libyan authorities," Salah Mohammad Osman Amaseeb, the acting secretary general of the Sudanese expatriates bureau, said.

He also asked Col. Qadhafi "not to increase the suffering" of the Palestinians "under these current circumstances."

"We are already faced with

by the Sudanese embassy in Tripoli that 15,000 Sudanese were stuck at the Libyan border town of Kufra by early Tuesday waiting for transportation, and warned the flood was likely to grow.

He said the measures were taken in line with Libyan law ordering all aliens illegally residing in Libya to leave the country.

In Tunis, Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), appealed against the expulsion of Palestinians.

"I appeal to my brother, President Muammar, to make the right decision concerning his Palestinian brothers and allow them to return to their place of residence in Libya," Mr. Arafat, was quoted as saying by the French news agency, Agence France Presse.

He also asked Col. Qadhafi "not to increase the suffering" of the Palestinians "under these current circumstances."

(Continued on page 7)

Arafat seen winning PLO approval for self-rule deal

TUNIS (Agencies) — Pales-

tinian National Authority (PNA) late Monday backed the accord due to be signed at the White House on Thursday.

The PLO leader concluded the agreement on Sunday with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres after a grueling week of talks in Taba, Egypt.

"Such accords cannot contribute to a just solution which preserves the balance of interests," he said in a handwritten statement sent to AFP in Tunis from New York, where he is taking part in a meeting of the U.N. General Assembly.

"Instead, it corresponds to Israel's expansionist desires by tracing the outlines of a final solution," said Mr. Kadouri, who has opposed the autonomy agreements.

His comments come before the special meeting of the PLO Executive Committee in Tunis.

Mr. Arafat arrived in Tunis from Gaza accompanied by six of his ministers after his

destroy the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Kadouri said: "The PLO considers the new accord as a destruction of the peace process and a denial of its goals for a fair and global peace in the Middle East."

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The PLO leader concluded the agreement on Sunday with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres after a grueling week of talks in Taba, Egypt.

Under the deal, Israeli soldiers will start withdrawing from the West Bank populated areas, except from parts of Hebron where they will remain to protect about 400 Jewish settlers who live among 120,000 Palestinians.

Mr. Ghoshe, who also sits on the PNA cabinet, said another cabinet member had joined him on Monday in expressing his reservations over Hebron.

The 18-member executive committee is nominally the highest body in the PLO. But

(Continued on page 7)

Accord is not final yet — Erakat

JERICHO (Agencies) — The Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement supposed to be signed Thursday in Washington still has significant holes, with time running out to fill them, a senior Palestinian negotiator said Tuesday.

The PLO is still waiting to hear from Israel on a timetable for starting the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Palestinian cities in the West Bank, said Saeb Erakat, minister of local affairs in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

"At this moment we have not yet finalised dates for the redeployment, and that's a major hanging issue in the whole agreement," Dr. Erakat told reporters at his office in Jericho. "I hope that we will begin or what would constitute completion.

Dr. Erakat said it was essential to agree on a starting date for a troop pullback before the "agreement is signed."

The accord on expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank was initialised Sunday in Taba, Egypt. It calls for a step-by-step pullout of Israeli troops from Palestinian towns and villages. The town of Hebron would be last, with soldiers remaining in parts of the town to protect Jewish settlers living there.

Hebron, where 450 Jewish settlers live amid 120,000 Palestinians, has been the site of almost daily clashes in recent months. On Tuesday,

Tuesday that elections would likely not be held before March, the deadline for Israeli troops to redeploy in Hebron.

Palestinians will elect an 82-member Palestinian council to administer the autonomous areas.

Dr. Erakat said militants would not be barred from running for office. But he added that candidates or parties that "commit or advocate racism" would be disqualified. It was not immediately clear how those criteria would be applied.

Candidates or parties that "pursue the implementation of their aims by unlawful or non-democratic means" would also be disqualified, according to the election agreement.

"It's really very serious," he said. "Every effort is being exercised now."

Dr. Erakat said the Palestinians had rejected one proposed Israeli timetable as too long, and the Israelis were supposed to come back with a new proposal.

Last-minute talks were expected to be held Tuesday night after the end of the Jewish new year's holiday, and perhaps even in Washington before the signing ceremony.

Palestinian sources said

the PLO has claimed responsibility for a series of deadly suicide bombings in its campaign against the Israel-PLO peace process, has taken steps in recent weeks to set up a political party.

Voters will choose representatives from 16 districts in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The European Union (EU) will coordinate teams of international observers.

Israel Radio said the EU would contribute \$20 million

(Continued on page 7)

PARIS (AFP) — The confidence rating of French President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Alain Juppé has tumbled again, a new opinion poll said Tuesday as the two leaders faced fallout from unpopular budget proposals and an embarrassing political scandal. The poll, carried out for the weekly *Le Vie* by the CSA institute, said Juppé's rating dropped nine points to 45 per cent on a month ago when people were asked if they trusted him to deal with France's problems. Mr. Chirac's part fell seven points to 48 per cent. Forty-five per cent said they did not have confidence in the prime minister and there were ten per cent of "don't knows." In Mr. Chirac's case 48 per cent said they trusted the president, 44 per cent did not and there were eight per cent of "don't knows." The poll confirmed a trend of falling popularity for the two leaders. On Sunday, a survey in the *Journal du Dimanche* newspaper by the IFOP institute said that Mr. Chirac's popularity score had dropped another six points to 53 per cent, while Mr. Juppé's had tumbled 11 points to 37 per cent in a month.

French leaders' ratings tumble

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S. Arabia seeks to resolve border disputes this year

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia is actively seeking to resolve long-standing border disputes in the Arabian Peninsula before a Gulf Arab summit in December.

But diplomats and Gulf sources say that while the kingdom's rulers have achieved part of their goal in recent months, resolving a territorial dispute between Bahrain and Qatar appeared to be still some way off.

"I don't see Saudi resolving that dispute before next year and before settling its own dispute with Qatar," a Western diplomat in Doha said on Tuesday.

Saudi King Fahd, in the second such visit by a senior Saudi official in a week, sent his special adviser and long-time aide Ibrahim Al Anqari to Qatar on Monday to discuss the kingdom's dispute with its much smaller neighbour and Doha's dispute with Manama, diplomats said.

The first mission was led by Abdul Aziz Ben Abdulla Al Kowiter, minister of state, who arrived in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday with a message from the Saudi leader to his UAE counterpart.

Diplomats said the visit was all part of Riyadh's renewed effort to move faster towards resolving its border disputes.

The Saudi-Qatari dispute

earlier led to a border clash, much tension between the two states and threatened the cohesion of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

GCC leaders last met in December in Bahrain where they agreed to resolve their border disputes before their next annual summit, a year later in Oman.

"I think significant progress is being done on that dispute (what Qatar) and Saudi Arabia won't be able to take a more active role in the Bahrain-Qatar dispute before resolving its own dispute," said the diplomat.

A Gulf Arab source agreed, adding: "Saudi Arabia appears to be keen on finishing all these disputes. Qatar too is serious about resolving its problem with Saudi Arabia."

In recent months, Saudi Arabia, the dominant GCC partner, has moved to resolve its border disputes with Yemen and GCC member Oman which has also settled its own dispute with Sanaa.

"There is virtually no problem" for Riyadh reaching a border accord with the United Arab Emirates once experts work out technical details, the Gulf source said.

Gulf sources and diplomats said similar Saudi negotiations with Kuwait for a por-

ter accord were not expected to face any major obstacles.

Saudi Arabia also has land borders with Iraq and Jordan.

But diplomats say neither Bahrain nor Qatar so far appear willing to budge on their claim to a cluster of Gulf islands and reefs and the dispute which, like others in the region, had led to tension and even clashes between the two GCC states.

"I think a resolution to the Qatari-Saudi and other disputes will bring pressure on Qatar and Bahrain to resolve their problem," said the western diplomat.

Saudi Arabia stepped in to mediate between the two states in the 1980s but failed to bring them closer. Qatar, to the displeasure of some GCC members, raised the dispute when it hosted the 1990 Gulf Arab summit at a time when world leaders were concentrating on dealing with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Qatar later took the dispute to the International Court of Justice, refusing to withdraw the case unless an acceptable mediation was found.

Bahrain has rejected the jurisdiction of the court which is expected to rule in the case by the end of the 1996.

Jordanian delegate presents his credentials to U.N. chief

NEW YORK (U.N.) — Hasan Abu Nimah, the new permanent representative of Jordan to the United Nations, has presented his credentials to Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

Earlier assignments included counsellor at the embassy of Jordan in London (1973 to 1977), attending the U.N. General Assembly in 1977; the Foreign Ministry in Amman (1972 to 1973); first secretary in the United States (1970 to 1972); second secretary in Iraq (1967 to 1970); and third secretary in Kuwait (1965 to 1967).

Mr. Abu Nimah participated in the Arab-Israeli peace talks held in Washington from 1992 to 1994. He is a recipient of the Order of the Grand Cross of Merit of Italy.

Prior to entering Jordan's foreign service, Mr. Abu Nimah was a political commentator for the Jordan Broadcasting Service and a lecturer at the Teacher Training Centre, Ramallah, operated by the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

Born on Sept. 11, 1935 in

European Parliament and was dean of the Arab diplomatic corps in Belgium and Luxembourg.

Al Kawkab of Jordan, 1966; the Medal of Pope Paul VI, 1964; and the Order of the Grand Cross of Merit of Italy.

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Born on Sept. 11, 1935 in Battir, Jerusalem, Mr. Abu Nimah graduated from the American University of Beirut in 1959. He attended Al Ummah College, Bethlehem, from 1952 to 1955.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait appoints Mauritania envoy

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, thawing a Gulf war-era chill in ties with Mauritania, said on Tuesday it had appointed an ambassador to the African country for the first time since the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis. A decree published in the government gazette named Abdulla Al Sraiya as ambassador to Nouakchott. Mauritania is one of several Arab and African states whose relations with Kuwait were damaged over their sympathy for Iraq during its seven-month occupation of the Gulf country. Kuwait downgraded diplomatic representation and ended or froze substantial financial aid to these states in response to their sympathy for Baghdad. Kuwait's Nouakchott mission has been headed by a chargé d'affaires since the 1991 Gulf war that ended the occupation. Mauritania's embassy in Kuwait is currently headed by a chargé d'affaires.

Greek jets participate in Cyprus exercise

NICOSIA (AP) — Five Greek warplanes on Monday joined war games under way in Cyprus, the first time that forces from the mainland have taken part in the annual exercises since the 1974 Turkish invasion. Cyprus Television interrupted programming to show the U.S.-built ground attack aircraft — three Corsair jets and two F-16s — diving on hypothetical enemy targets south of Nicosia. Greek warplanes flew over Cyprus during last year's manoeuvres, but did not take part in the games, codenamed Nikiforos, Greek for victor. Cyprus Defence Minister Costas Eliades said the participation Monday of Greek air force jets in Nikiforos this year underscored the importance of the island's joint defence pact with Greece. The pact, signed two years ago, has been criticised in both countries as a propaganda ploy that would not help build up Cypriot defences. Mr. Eliades rejected the criticism. "The joint defence pact is a reality which was proved today," he said.

Cyprus jails 3 Britons on drugs charges

NICOSIA (R) — Three Britons were jailed in Cyprus on Monday for periods ranging from 45 to 50 days after pleading guilty to drug possession. A court in the port town of Larnaca sentenced postman John Mancer, 24, to 45 days imprisonment for possessing speed pills, while post office worker Edward John Dimond, 34, and businessman Paul Colin Lingwood, 25, were jailed for 50 days each for possessing 5.85 and 4.25 grammes of cannabis respectively. The home towns of the accused were not made public. The accused were arrested at an apartment in the Ayia Napa holiday resort on Sept. 11. District Judge Antonis Liatsos told the accused penalties must be a deterrent to curtail the drug problem in Cyprus and in the holiday resort of Ayia Napa in particular. Another five British holidaymakers were jailed by the same court last week on similar charges. Police say there has been a marked increase in the number of foreigners arrested, mainly in the Ayia Napa resort, on charges of possessing drugs. Cyprus police chief Andreas Potamitis was recently quoted as saying foreigners bring narcotics to the island to sell to pay the expenses of their holiday.

Iran military 'close to self-sufficiency'

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's defence minister said Monday that his country's armed forces were almost self-sufficient in weapons, and that Tehran was the best source of arms to other countries in the region. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted Mohammad Forouzandeh as saying that "a great deal of independent countries aware of Iran's ability to produce all sorts of conventional weapons have asked the Islamic republic to invest in their military industries." According to IRNA, monitored in Cyprus, he said that since the end of Iran's 1980-88 war with Iraq, "a large part" of the indigenous military industries had been converted to civilian use. He said that last year the monetary value of civilian goods produced by the military industries exceeded what they produced for armed forces. He said 60 per cent of the goods were made for the civilian market.

Sudan, China voice mutual support

BELJING (AP) — Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir thanked China on Tuesday for its economic aid and said the two governments share a dislike of western criticism of their human rights records. "Westerners are always using human rights and democracy as excuses to interfere in countries' internal affairs," Lieutenant-General Bashir told a news conference. "As a Third World country, China opposes this." Although Gen. Bashir has outlawed the Communist Party in Sudan, along with other parties, he made it clear he and China's communist leaders agreed on some points. "Our profound rejection of hegemonism and intervention in the internal affairs of other countries is a solid foundation for our cooperation," he said.

MEA tickets to go on sale in U.S.

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's national carrier Middle East Airlines (MEA) will put its tickets on sale in the United States in two weeks. MEA Chairman Khaled Salam said in remarks published on Tuesday. "The U.S. decision to allow selling MEA tickets inside the United States has not been implemented yet. We are supposed to begin sales in two weeks." Mr. Salam was quoted as saying by the Lebanese newspaper Al Anwar. The U.S. government eased restrictions on air travel to Lebanon a week ago, allowing U.S. citizens to travel after obtaining written approval from the State Department. The decision amends a 1983 travel ban imposed after the hijacking of a Trans World Airlines plane in Beirut, so U.S. air carriers can route passengers to Lebanon on other airlines via third countries. "It is a positive step but it is a small one," Mr. Salam was quoted as saying.

Iran offers troops to U.N. in Bosnia

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said on Monday his country was willing to take part in U.N. peacekeeping operations and to send troops to Bosnia.

In a speech to the General Assembly, he said if the Security Council had committed the necessary forces for the protection of "safe areas" in Bosnia, including accepting assistance offered by Islamic countries, the Bosnian Serbs could not have "continued... their crimes of genocide" against the inhabitants of those areas, most of them Muslim.

"Iran... announces its readiness in principle to participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations, with its tenets and the fundamental principles of the charter," Mr. Velayati said.

"Here, I deem it necessary to reiterate the preparedness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to dispatch peacekeeping forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which we had earlier committed along with other Islamic countries."

If the Security Council had at least provided the necessary mandate or committed the necessary forces for the protection of the "safe areas," including by taking advantage of the assistance offered by the Islamic countries, "the Bosnian Serbs could not have continued, with relative ease, their crimes of genocide against the defenceless people of U.N. declared safe areas."

Mr. Velayati said all countries willing and able to take part in U.N. peacekeeping "should be treated equally and without discrimination." While a unified U.N. command structure was essential, "its leadership should not be the monopoly of a handful of states."

U.S. is 'extremely' pleased by self-rule expansion accord

WASHINGTON (USIA) — State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns said Secretary of State Warren Christopher, in a three-way telephone conversation with the two leaders, congratulated Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat after they successfully concluded their negotiations on the Interim Agreement as provided in the declaration of principles.

The secretary is extremely pleased about the success of their negotiations," Mr. Burns said. "And I would note that the United States did play a major part in these negotiations — as Israel and the Palestinian Authority have acknowledged.

In fact, I think it's perhaps one of the first times where there has been a shuttle diplomacy by telephone. And that was carried on by Ambassador Dennis Ross, as well as Secretary Christopher."

Mr. Burns noted that Ross, U.S. Mideast negotiator, "was on the phone constantly for hours every day over the last week and at many points with Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat, together, on the phone.... And I think both sides have credited him and credited the U.S. with having played a key role in getting them across the finish line and to this agreement."

He said one of the problems has been that pledges made were not received in a timely fashion. He said Washington will "encourage others to be more forthcoming with their donations, but that applies equally to us. We've got commitments that we have made dating back to October 1993 that need to be fulfilled."

President Clinton will welcome leaders from the region on Sept. 28 for the ceremony marking signature of the self-rule agreement, and he intends to have bilateral sessions with the principals that day and the next. There will be a luncheon in the State Dining Room for dignitaries at the signing and a reception that evening.

Mr. Christopher will cut short his round of bilateral and multilateral meetings at the United Nations General Assembly to return to Washington for the Sept. 28 signing of the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord, another spokesman said.

It is likely that Mr. Christopher will return to Washington from New York late on Sept. 27. His already hectic five-day schedule of meetings

on the fringes of the U.N. General Assembly is now being compressed into three.

"Some of the events are Mideast related, so those, he can do here," the acting spokesman said, but he was able to specify only one of them. "The secretary will host an informal meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee of key countries providing assistance to the Palestinians," he said, "and he may have some additional meetings with the parties."

White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry told a questioner Monday he would check on whether the agreement on self-rule for the Palestinians on the West Bank requires additional U.S. aid, but he noted that "one of the things we have done since October 1993 is build on the work that the Israelis and Palestinians have done by encouraging and providing incentives for the international community to donate to the progress of the Palestinians will surely make as they implement their side of the declaration and the interim agreement."

He said one of the problems has been that pledges made were not received in a timely fashion. He said Washington will "encourage others to be more forthcoming with their donations, but that applies equally to us. We've got commitments that we have made dating back to October 1993 that need to be fulfilled."

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Woman jailed in Kuwait for killing maid

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti court on Tuesday jailed a 35-year-old Iraqi woman for five years followed by deportation for beating her Filipina maid to death.

The court sentenced Janet Shamoun to five years in prison and ordered her deportation (after the jail term is served), an official of the criminal court told reporters.

She was the second Arab woman jailed by Kuwaiti courts this month for beating her Asian maid to death. Ms. Shamoun's lawyers said they had appealed against the verdict.

Officials have said the family of the victim, 24-year-old Margaret Almogela, have accepted \$56,500 in so-called "blood money" from Ms. Shamoun's relatives to drop a private prosecution.

Prosecution lawyers said that the payment had no effect on the state case, against Ms. Shamoun.

The Iraqi woman, married to a Kuwaiti, was not in the court for the verdict. Kuwaiti courts do not require defendants to be present in sessions held to announce verdicts.

Walid Yousef Boukeri, Ms. Shamoun's husband, acknowledged the maid had been beaten but said she died from a lung ailment.

In remarks that referred in part to Kuwaiti hatred for Iraq following its 1990-91 occupation, he alleged the court had been influenced by Ms. Shamoun's nationality and her former religion — she was a Christian before converting to Islam eight years ago.

"We believe that the nationality and the former religion had a bearing on the sentence. This woman has been done an injustice," Mr. Boukeri, sounding angry, said by telephone.

Ms. Shamoun has been in detention since June on suspicion of causing the death of Almogela, who died in a hospital from severe injuries to her head and other body parts, lawyers said. The charge against her was of "causing death through beating."

The prosecution had asked for the death penalty.

A lawyer familiar with the case said: "A photograph of the victim shows marks of heavy beating. You would not believe that it is a picture of a human being," he said.

He said the Security Coun-

Iran denies receiving Chinese nuclear help

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran denied Tuesday a report that China had supplied it with uranium-processing equipment that would enable it to build nuclear weapons.

An official from Iran's nuclear energy agency said the report in the British Sunday Telegraph newspaper was "totally baseless," as China also denied the claims.

Iran, a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, "has several times reiterated that it will use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes only," the Iranian official said, quoted by the daily Tehran Times.

"Iran calls for the total dismantling of nuclear arsenals worldwide in order to have a nuclear-free-world," he added.

The Sunday Telegraph, quoting "confidential reports," said China had provided Iran with crucial uranium processing equipment that would enable Tehran to manufacture its own nuclear warheads.

A Chinese Foreign Minis-

try spokesman said Tuesday: "China has never exported any sensitive technology or equipment concerning reprocessing and enrichment of uranium and production of heavy water."

China signed an accord several years ago for the sale of two reactors to Iran, but the contract has not been confirmed over financing difficulties.

"There is not any nuclear cooperation between China and Iran that is not under the safeguard of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)," spokesman Chen Jian told a news conference in Beijing.

According to Western experts, reports of the delivery of uranium reprocessing equipment — which is capable of extracting plutonium — were "groundless," given that Iran does not yet possess a nuclear reactor capable of producing uranium.

The enrichment of uranium is possible, but the technique requires expensive equipment, they said.

The sanctions on Libya were imposed in 1992 for its failure to extradite for trial two men wanted in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland which killed 270 people.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia called for the lifting of the sanctions against Libya and Iraq.

Addressing the U.N. General Assembly, Mr. Ben Yahia said Tunisia "has called in the light of Libyan initiatives for an early resolution of the Lockerbie question, to put an end to the embargo imposed on the brotherly Libyan people."

These curbs were "not only hurting Libya but also affecting in a seriously negative way the stability and development of all countries in the region," he said.

His reference to Libyan initiatives appeared to mean the offer by Tripoli to allow the two suspects to be tried at the seat of the World Court. But this is regarded as unsatisfactory by Britain and the U.S. which insist the two men must be tried in either a British or U.S. court.

BRIEF

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MARKET PRICES

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Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Tuesday reviews labour relations with Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) Secretary General Bakr Mohammad Rasoul. The two officials also discussed the need to forge closer cooperation and consultation in labour-related issues and the possibility for Jordan to utilise the technical assistance provided by the ALO to Arab countries (Petra photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwaiti labour official visits

AMMAN (Petra) — Murshed Fahel Wasmi, secretary of the Kuwaiti Workers Federation for Foreign Relations Tuesday met Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU) officials to discuss prospects of cooperation in workers' affairs. Mr Wasmi, who is on a several-day visit to Jordan as a guest of the FJLU, said after the talks that the FJLU has extended an invitation to the Kuwaiti federation to send a delegation to Jordan to continue discussions on advancing bilateral ties.

Princess Rahma to attend health-awareness meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma Bint Al Hassan will attend a three-day symposium on Oct. 14 on the role of youth in promoting awareness about reproductive health and sexually-transmitted diseases (STD). Taking part in the symposium will be 32 participants from Jordanian youth clubs, the Arab Youth Forum, and the University of Jordan, as well as winners of the Crown Prince Award Golden Prize. Representatives of the Jordanian Society for Family Planning and Protection are also expected to attend. Participants will discuss such issues as youth problems, STDs, including the acquired immune-deficiency syndrome (AIDS), youth needs and communication skills.

Study releases 1993 figures on labour

AMMAN (Petra) — The total Jordanian labour force working abroad at the end of the 1993 was 275,000 compared with 330,000 in 1987, according to a recent study. The study found that the average annual growth rate of the Jordanian expatriate labour force was 11 per cent during the period from 1975 to 1980. However, the study said, the annual growth rate declined to 6.1 percent during the first half of the 1980s. The study attributed the labour force immigration to unemployment, attractive job opportunities abroad, the forcible migration of Palestinians to Jordan in 1948 and 1967, in addition to Jordan's genuine desire to provide the Arab countries of the Gulf with qualified Jordanian cadres.

Mafraq official looks

into road accident issue

MAFRAG (Petra) — Establishing a branch for the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road accidents was the main topic of discussion during a meeting between Mafraq Governor Qutfan Majali and Mohammed Dabbas, the society's president. Mr Majali stressed the importance of establishing a branch in Mafraq to conduct awareness campaigns, with a view to reducing casualties incurred as a result of road accidents on the Mafraq roads. A total of 114 people were killed and 2,486 others were injured during the first half of the 1990s in Mafraq Governorate alone.

Socio-economic aspects of King Talal Reservoir region studied

AMMAN (Petra) — A study entitled, Socio-economic and Environmental Study of the King Talal Reservoir Region, has found that the average family size in the basin area was 7.5 persons, a figure which is higher than the national average family size. The study, conducted recently by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), said the average per capita income for residents of this region is JD 535 per annum, and that illiteracy rate was 37 per cent.

The five-volume study,

discussed the impact of

developing and improving

quality of water on the

economic, social and environmental development of this region, feasibility of establishing a fishery in the King Talal Dam, and establishing recreational facilities in the dam area.

a large order for soft drinks.

The man told police that after shipping the products, he discovered that the company did not exist.

Authorities told the Jordan Times Tuesday that Madaba police have been receiving similar complaints since the beginning of the year and that many store owners said that they were defrauded in the same manner.

According to the official,

the three men aged 49, 31

and 20, confessed to the

times.

The official would not

identify any of the suspects,

but said that they were

unemployed.

He added that most of the

products were retrieved by

the authorities.

Police arrest 3 suspects in Madaba fraud cases

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Madaba police Monday apprehended three men who allegedly defrauded merchants in Madaba over the past eight months, according to Public Security Department (PSD) reports.

According to the report, the latest incident involved a soft drinks company employee who was defrauded of JD 1,647.

The victim, identified only as N.F., complained to police last week that three people visited the company, where he is employed, claiming they were proprietors of another commercial establishment. The victim said the men placed

a large order for soft drinks.

The man told police that after shipping the products, he discovered that the company did not exist.

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Save water, every drop counts...

Experts to explore earthquake precautionary measures

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day pan-Arab seminar due to open here Monday will explore how to reduce earthquake damage to buildings and other installations.

Housing and Urban Development Department (Hudd) Director General Yousef Hiyasat said in a statement Tuesday that the specialists from Arab countries participating in the seminar will encourage Arab states to work together to take precautionary measures against such natural disasters particularly in the construction of buildings.

The seminar will revolve around four main topics, the first of which deals with the history and nature of earthquakes. The second deals with precautionary measures that should be taken, such as building

design and materials that are earthquake-resistant, according to Mr. Hiyasat.

He said the third topic looks at ways to spread public awareness on what to do during an earthquake and how to conduct rescue operations. The fourth discusses how to assess damage and losses, and how to train cadres in this field.

Mr. Hiyasat said 25 working papers covering the four topics will be reviewed by the delegates who will include representatives of more than 40 Arab ministries, departments and research centres specialising in seismology.

The seminar is organised by Hudd in cooperation with the Arab League's Council of Ministers of Reconstruction, according to Yousef Hiyasat.

Arab states form new marine life protection council

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan and five other Red Sea littoral countries Tuesday announced the establishment of a regional council to safeguard the Red Sea and Gulf of Eden environment.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Nader Thueir who represented Jordan at the meetings here hailed the agreement on establishing the council as an essential platform for fighting off pollution in the region.

Speaking after the end of the meetings which were attended by delegates from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Yemen and Sudan in addition to Jordan, the minister said that by protecting the environment the six countries will also be giving protection to sea wealth and marine life.

The delegates said in a statement after the meetings that their countries will cooperate to achieve the aspired goal and urged other countries to join the council in its efforts to combat pollution.

The council said that it will have its head office in Jeddah, and will hold its second meeting in Sept. 1996 at the headquarters of the Arab League in Cairo.

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Ross Perot launches campaign for third U.S. political party

WASHINGTON (R) — Once again, maverick billionaire Ross Perot has shaken up U.S. presidential politics with a surprise announcement Monday that he is forming a third party for the 1996 election.

The Texas industrialist with his familiar high-pitched twang made the announcement on CNN's Larry King Live, the same political soapbox he used to launch his independent presidential candidacy in 1992.

Mr. Perot left many unanswered questions such as whether he would seek his own party nomination or if he could turn a third party into a winning force to win the presidency in 1996. A third party has never won a presidential election.

Mr. Perot said the new party's main aim would be to make U.S. politics more responsive to the American people.

In typical fashion, the

folksy Perot left much up in the air, even the definitive name of the third party movement. He said it would be the "Independence Party" everywhere but California where it would be known as the "Reform Party".

California is the largest state with the biggest political prize in the 1996 presidential election.

In 1992, Mr. Perot finished with 19 per cent of the vote in an independent bid against winner Bill Clinton, who captured 43 per cent of the vote against then President George Bush with 37 per cent.

At the time, he headed a movement called United We Stand which was not technically a third party.

Mr. Perot was obviously stepping into a void since polls show a growing number of Americans disillusioned with either Democratic or Republican parties and seemingly ready

for a new independent voice that does not express politics as usual.

"So, tonight we are going to start the process of creating a party for the independent voter," Mr. Perot said.

Some political commentators were sceptical about his intentions.

"I think he sees politics as a giant video game for billionaires," said Mr. Bush's former press secretary Martin Fitzwater on the CNBC cable network. Mr. Fitzwater said a third party "sets him up as a broker for other candidates" who, he said, will find they cannot meet his requirements.

Presidential scholar Mark Rozell said Mr. Perot wanted to shake up the system and get back into the political limelight being grabbed by retired General Colin Powell, who has drawn huge crowds while he signs his autobiography on a book tour and is immensely popular in polls.

Currently, Senator Bob Dole leads a crowded field of Republican contenders to run against Mr. Clinton.

"Perot is being dwarfed by Powell," Mr. Rozell told Reuters.

Gen. Powell, the former head of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Gulf War, has said he will decide in November whether or not to run as a Republican or an independent.

Mr. Fitzwater said he thought Gen. Powell could not win on his own. "I don't think an independent Colin Powell can win," he said.

Mr. Perot said he would start forming the third party in three states, California, Ohio and Maine, and the party would pick a presidential candidate next spring.

Mr. Perot said he wanted to see "some bright new faces" entering the presidential race.

Currently, Senator Bob Dole leads a crowded field of Republican contenders to run against Mr. Clinton.

Ailing China dissident cleared for U.S. treatment

BEIJING (R) — Leading Shanghai dissident Yang Zhou, unexpectedly paroled from a labour camp in July, plans to leave Wednesday for New York to seek treatment for a throat tumour, his wife said Tuesday.

Mr. Yang's wife, Li Guopin, said by telephone from Shanghai, that after months of frustrations and false starts she believed all obstacles had been cleared for their departure.

"We've met many times with the public security authorities, including this morning, and do not expect anything besides the ordinary procedures at the airport," Ms. Li said.

Mr. Yang's imminent departure for the United States comes at a time of serious diplomatic friction in Sino-U.S. relations.

Beijing has accused Washington of "conning" with forces seeking to split Taiwan and Tibet from Chinese sovereignty, despite U.S. policy calling both regions part of China.

Washington remains the world's leading critic of China's human rights record and has pressed Beijing to free dissidents regarded as prisoners of conscience.

As has been the case with the handful of other outspoken dissidents allowed to travel abroad, Beijing pressured Mr. Yang and his wife to keep a low profile and not to embarrass China.

"The authorities told us to keep our distance from foreign journalists, among other things," Ms. Li said.

Mr. Yang, a longtime campaigner for more democracy, civil liberties and the rule of law, in 1978 co-founded the Association for Human Rights in Shanghai, which officials in China's biggest city have refused to grant legal status.

He was one of thousands of activists rounded up after troops crushed pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989, and has angered Beijing by mounting anniversary activities commemorating the hundreds killed in the crackdown.

In the nine weeks since Mr. Yang's sudden parole on July 15, just a year into a three-year labour camp sentence, authorities have rejected invitations for him to be treated at both Columbia University and New York University.

In the end, it was a friend of Mr. Yang's father who read a news story about the couple's difficulties and provided an invitation.

Clinton sees big stakes riding on 1996 election

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton, revving up his political engines, said Monday he saw his reelection bid as even more crucial than his 1992 run for the presidency because his would-be successors offered "destructive" visions.

"Four years ago, I ran because I thought there was no action being taken to give us a new economic policy ... Now I think the alternative vision out there is destructive of the future we want," he said.

Mr. Clinton, who is not yet an avowed candidate for a second term in the White House, said in an interview with newspaper journalists he was confident about his chances at the polls next year because voters were starting to look at his record.

He said one of the reasons for the remarkable ups and downs of his trouble-plagued presidency was "if you do things, you've got to make people mad".

In what seemed to be a veiled jab at the conservative talk show hosts who have pounded him repeatedly, Mr. Clinton said if one's critics had access to radio and television programmes and other channels of communications, "they will go wacky and they will generate animosity".

The interview took place over a luncheon celebrating the 80th birthday of Godfrey Sperling, a longtime political reporter for the Christian Science Monitor, and focused on the 1996 election campaign.

Mr. Clinton, who spent five days last week in a cross-country campaign fundraising trip, said the policies he put in place over the last two-and-a-half years were showing results.

"It's been a stormy time for the country, but if you look at what has been accomplished, I think the record has been good for America and will be good for our future," he said.

The 49-year-old president said the main difference between him and his Republican critics is over the extent of people's obligations to try to help one another.

"I think that if their view prevails, it may be more like the '20s than the '30s," he said, referring to the 1920s, an era when rapacious free-market policies sowed the seeds of an economic failure that led to the great depression.

He recalled that congressional Republicans voted en masse against his economic programme, saying it would bring recession, and that "instead we had the best economic performance we've had in two or three decades".

He also noted that the U.S. crime rate was declining.

Mr. Clinton, in an ebullient state of mind after an admitted period of self-doubt following his Democratic Party's disastrous losses in the 1994 congressional and gubernatorial elections, said he thought the voters were taking notice.

"Last November, plainly the country was in kind of an anxious mood, a negative mood, a frustrated mood about the government," he said.

Now, Mr. Clinton continued, "I think the country is sort of moving into a more positive frame of mind as we see more and more economic good news, and as we see more and more evidence that some of the problems we thought can't be solved, you can actually make progress on them."

Chinese leaders hold fall meeting amid usual secrecy

BEIJING (AP) — China's 220 most powerful Communist Party officials are meeting to set the nation's economic agenda for the next five years and punish one of their number for alleged corruption.

Important as the meeting is, officials and the state-run media are keeping silent about it, illustrating how secretive the ruling party remains despite the increased openness of the economy and society as a whole.

Glimpses of the party's workings mostly come through back-door channels: Informed Chinese who don't want to be quoted by name and the Beijing-connected Hong Kong media.

According to those sources, the party's policy-setting Central Committee began its annual fall conclave Monday at a hotel on the capital's west side.

Outside the Jingxi Hotel's dull concrete edifice, police prohibited cars from using the street leading to the main gate. Above the portal guarded by four uniformed soldiers, a signboard read, "Long live the great, glorious and correct Communist Party."

Dozens of black Mercedes and Audis, the cars favoured by party bosses, and a couple of ambulances took up part of the vast parking lot. A public restaurant run by the hotel has been closed for a five-day "rest," according to a sign on the door.

The first official notification foreign reporters receive of a Central Committee meeting normally comes when it is over and the state-run Xinhua News Agency carries dispatches on its decisions. A report on this session is not expected until Wednesday or Thursday.

A pelvic bone can reveal a person's gender with 90 per cent accuracy, the investigators said, and a long bone such as a femur can be used to estimate an individual's height.

Bones provide missing link in Haiti rights probe

PORTE-AU-PRINCE (R) — With chisels in hand, a team of forensic anthropologists has been digging at sites across Haiti this month, quietly unearthing human bones that provide mute testimony to one of the ugliest chapters in the Caribbean nation's history.

The researchers, sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, hope the excavated human remains will provide an important link in determining culpability for human rights abuses committed during the three-year dictatorship by military leaders who overthrew democratically elected Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and forced him into exile.

International human rights observers have charged that some 4,000 Haitians, most of them Aristide supporters, were killed during the coup years.

The international team, whose members had led digs at mass grave sites in Argentina, El Salvador and Ethiopia, are lending a hand to Haiti's Presidential Commission on Truth and Justice.

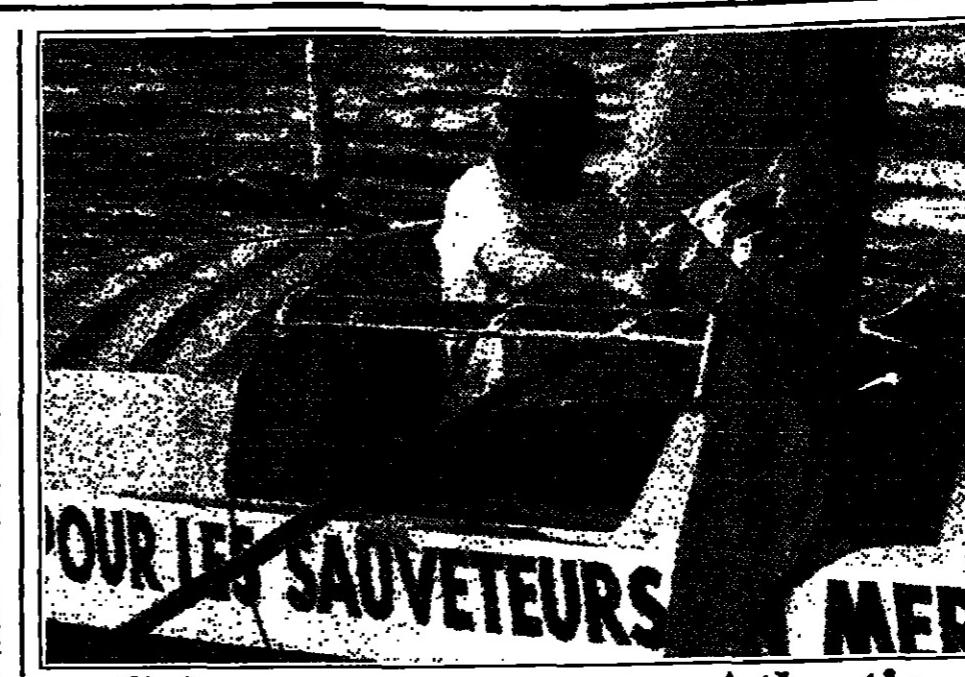
Charged with shedding light on the thousands of executions, disappearances and other acts of torture carried out by security forces during the military regime of General Raoul Cedras, the Truth Commission is not a tribunal and its findings do not carry the weight of a conviction.

But officials said the inquiries are important in setting the record straight.

"What we are doing here is what a police officer would do in, say, a scene investigation," explained Karen Burns, a forensic anthropologist at the University of Georgia who is participating in the one-month dig.

The carefully exhumed bone fragments, fibers, hair and clothing remains are brought back to a lab at the capital Port-au-Prince's State University Hospital where they are analysed to determine identity and manner of death.

A pelvic bone can reveal a person's gender with 90 per cent accuracy, the investigators said, and a long bone such as a femur can be used to estimate an individual's height.



Solo oarsman crosses Atlantic

BREST, France (AP) — A Brittany oarsman crossed the symbolic Oneness-Cap Lizard Line after 103 days alone at sea and 500,000 oar strokes across the Atlantic, his liaison said. Joseph Le Guen undertook the solo Atlantic crossing to raise money for volunteer ocean rescue teams. When the 48-year-old Le Guen completes his journey, he will not have broken the speed record, but will be the first ever to carry mail between the United States and France via rowboat. Record holder Gerard D'Abboville rowed across the Atlantic in 72 days in 1980. Since 1980, 10 people have tried to row across the Atlantic. Only D'Abboville and Le Guen have succeeded. In his eight-metre rowing shell, Le Guen has 2,700 postcards and letters from companies and the mayors of Brest and Chatham, Massachusetts, where he departed for France June 15. Stamped with American postage, the pieces of mail will be sold in Brest to collectors for 250 francs (\$50) each. Departure and arrival cards will be sold by the Stamp Collectors' Club of Brest for 30 francs (\$6) each, with proceeds to go to the National Ocean Rescue Society. Le Guen crossed the symbolic Cap Lizard Line Sunday. The Cape in Brittany is the traditional arrival point for trans-Atlantic crossings. The photograph shows Mr. Le Guen just before arriving to shore on Molene Island (AFP photo)

Ethnic opposition party stays away from Karachi peace talks

KARACHI (AFP) — Karachi's main ethnic opposition party stayed away from peace talks with the government Tuesday in protest against the alleged murder of two activists in police custody, party officials said.

The 10th round of negotiations between the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the ethnic-based Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) aimed at ending bloodshed in this port city was scheduled to begin in Islamabad Tuesday.

The decision came as a mark of protest at the death of two MQM activists Sunday, whom the party has charged were "brutally tortured" and killed by security forces.

The MQM further charged that the bodies were "desecrated" by law enforcement personnel. The police maintain that the two men were killed here

Sunday in an armed confrontation with the security forces.

Tariq Javed, a member of the MQM negotiation team, told AFP that the party was not withdrawing from the talks process, nor should the action be considered a boycott of the talks.

"We are postponing our presence at the talks until the government responds to our charges," he added.

Earlier this week, the head of the MQM negotiating team ... Ajmal Dehlvi, announced that the MQM would not abandon the talks despite the fact that they were stagnating. The party has repeatedly said the government is "not sincere" in holding the talks.

The MQM further charged that the bodies were "desecrated" by law enforcement personnel. The police maintain that the two men were killed here

meanwhile, there were reports of sporadic incidents.

More than 1,400 people have died here in religious and political violence this year.

The government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto blames the MQM for much of the violence in Karachi. The party denies its involvement, blaming the terrors on the alleged government discrimination against the Mohajir community.

Meanwhile, there were reports of sporadic incidents.

third secretary in Oslo, Viktor Fedik — an officer in Russia's military espionage service GRU — was expelled for trying to recruit a Norwegian to supply information on foreign students in Oslo.

The majority of agents kicked out of Norway have been from the former Soviet Union — since 1945, 47 alleged Soviet agents have been expelled.

Former KGB chief Leonid Shebarshin said recently in an interview with Arbeiderbladet that the KGB concentrated its work in Oslo in the late 1980's on acquiring secret NATO documents.

Mr. Shebarshin was the head of the KGB's foreign espionage from 1989 to 1991.

Inquiry shows Juppe cut son's rent illegally

PARIS (AP) — A French anti-corruption panel has indicated that conservative Prime Minister Alain Juppe likely broke the law when he intervened to cut the rent on his son's city-owned apartment, a newspaper reported.

But in a 10-page report France's top anti-corruption investigator Bernard Challe and his panel said an official abuses power when taking an interest in an apartment "simply in a moral or familial manner," the centre-left daily Le Monde said in its Tuesday edition released Monday afternoon and widely reported in the media.

The report never named Mr. Juppe, but the study was requested by Socialist lawmakers after the investigative newspaper Le Canard Enchainé in June published a 1993 letter by Mr. Juppe asking city officials that his son's rent be reduced. Mr. Juppe was Paris finance director at the time.

Mr. Juppe had his son's rent reduced about 30 per cent lower than market rates but has argued he did the same for other renters as a way to control rent inflation.

Home alone for Macaulay Culkin isn't just a movie

New York (AP) — Even at age 15, Macaulay Culkin apparently can't be left home alone. The actor and his siblings have been throwing wild parties while their parents are locked in a bitter child-custody battle, according to friends and neighbours quoted in the New York Post. They said the Home Alone star has been living it up while his parents are locked in a bitter child-custody battle. The six Culkin kids, ages 6 to 19, live with their mother in three apartments in the same building. On a recent Saturday, Macaulay and two brothers — 12-year-old Kieran and 19-year-old Shane — threw a beer party in the apartment they share, the Post quoted a source as saying. Some neighbours won't allow their kids to play with the showbiz brood "because there was alcohol, and the kids are unsupervised," said neighbour Lorna Bundy, whose 14-year-old daughter, actress Laura Bundy, was a childhood playmate of Macaulay's. Laura, who has a role in the upcoming film Jumanji with Robin Williams, can see her old friend only in her own apartment. A call to Macaulay's publicist, Cynthia Parsons, was not immediately returned. The three younger children are supervised by a nanny hired by their mother, Patricia Brentrup, "but the older boys have no supervision," Ms. Bundy said. Ms. Brentrup and the children's father, Kit Culkin, who were never married, are braced for a trial starting Dec. 4 to settle who should win permanent custody — and professional control — over the brood.

Jackson seeks to merge publishing interests with Sony Music

LONDON (AFP) — U.S. pop star Michael Jackson is in negotiations to merge his publishing interests with those of his record label, Sony Music, the Financial Times reported Tuesday. The paper said that Jackson — who owns the rights to a number of music catalogues including the songs of the Beatles, Little Richard and Elvis Presley — could merge his publishing company, ATV music, with Sony's Music publishing subsidiary. Jackson would then become a major shareholder in the new company, the paper said. The entire ATV catalogue — some 4,000 songs — was valued at \$500 million in 1993 when Jackson sold the rights to administer it to EMI Music Publishing, according to the paper. Publishing is a lucrative area in the music market. Publishers receive royalties each time music is sold as a compact disc or cassette. They are also paid if it is performed in public.

Bogus controller could crash planes-report

LONDON (R) — A bogus air traffic controller is sending false messages to planes that could put them on a collision course, pilots said. "He is risking the lives of thousands, not only on aircraft taking off and landing but the lives of people on the ground," pilots' union chief Chris Dark told the Sunday Mirror



Doctors attend two seriously injured people at a hospital in New Delhi where two bombs went off as thousands of Hindus were celebrating a religious festival (AFP photo)

Sikh separatists say they planted Delhi bombs

NEW DELHI (R) — The Khalistan Liberation Force, a militant group fighting for a separate Sikh nation in northern India, claimed responsibility for a series of bomb blasts in Delhi, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said Tuesday.

PTI said it received a hand-written statement from the group threatening to explode more devices in the Indian capital, where two bombs went off Monday night, injuring 46 people, two of them seriously.

A third bomb exploded at a railway crossing in northwest Delhi Tuesday morning slightly injured a child, but police said the blast appeared to be unconnected to the two earlier explosions.

PTI said the Khalistan Liberation Force statement was delivered to its office in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state. Punjab, the home state of the Sikhs, is adjacent to Jammu and Kashmir.

The news agency said the organisation claimed the bombs were triggered by remote control.

"We have made no arrests so far. There are no suspects," Kudaisya told Reuters.

north of Delhi Tuesday injured seven people, PTI said.

Meanwhile police drafted in reinforcements to guard Hindu festival celebrations in the Indian capital Tuesday after the two small bombs exploded in the area.

Police said the bombs Monday night were placed on the road by the Ram Lila grounds, an area of barren land outside Delhi's historic Red Fort used for political rallies and the enactment of the Hindu epics during the festival season which has just begun.

"We are preparing for the evening when the Ram Lila will be celebrated. We are strengthening the perimeter of the ground with more police," Assistant Police Commissioner Mohan Kudaisya told Reuters.

The nearby Chandni Chowk area, a warren of alleys and lanes full of markets and bazaars in the heart of the old city, was packed with evening shoppers when the bombs went off. A circus was playing under a big top erected outside the Red Fort.

"I was standing near the motorcycle waiting for my bus to come when suddenly I was thrown back. I didn't know what hit me until the explosion occurred."

time I saw flames erupting from the motorcycle," he told reporters from his hospital bed.

Police said many of the victims were suffering from shrapnel wounds below the waist.

"The first thing that hit me was the deafening sound," Sumit, a 17-year-old student told reporters.

"I was lucky that moments before the blast I got off my motorcycle to check why the road ahead was blocked. I had barely walked a few paces when the explosion occurred."

"My friend was trapped underneath the bike which was in flames. The entire pavement and the road was flooded with injured people. Many had lost consciousness," he added.

Policeman Naresh Prakash told the Pioneer newspaper: "I was standing near the entrance of the (circus) tent when I heard a big bang..."

"Amid the cacophony of crackers and songs on loudspeakers, I thought it was a loud cracker that had been burst. But then I heard people shrieking and I rushed towards the spot."

Police stop protest against U.S. arms to Pakistan

NEW DELHI (R) — Police fired water cannon Tuesday to disperse about 2,000 demonstrators from the youth wing of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress Party protesting against a U.S. arms package for Pakistan.

About 150 police manning barricades prevented demonstrators from the Indian Youth Congress from approaching the U.S. embassy in the Indian capital.

The president of the Indian Youth Congress, Maninderjeet Singh Bitta, was allowed through the barricade, about one kilometre from the U.S. embassy, and said he intended to present a letter to the embassy addressed to President Bill Clinton.

The letter, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, called on Mr. Clinton to "stall" the \$368 million arms sale package for Pakistan which the U.S. Senate approved last week.

"There is great resentment in the minds of Indian people due to this unfortunate step taken by U.S. Senate," the letter said.

"Political leaders cutting across their party lines have unanimously condemned this action and the whole country stands united to express their anger and anguish over this arms package offered to Pakistan."

The demonstrators shouted "Clinton, shame, shame" and "Pakistan, shame, shame" as they tried to scale the metal

barricades.

Sanjay Chandok, spokesman for the Indian Youth Congress, accused Pakistan of having a hand in two bomb blasts that injured at least 46 people in Delhi Monday.

"We will not tolerate the continued interference of Pakistan," he told Reuters. "The bomb blasts were another version of increasing terrorist activities in India by Pakistan. We will not tolerate the U.S. providing arms and help to Pakistan."

The Senate vote permitted Pakistan to take delivery of missiles and other military equipment held up by sanctions imposed in 1990 when then-President George Bush declined to certify that Pakistan did not have nuclear weapons.

Last week the Foreign Ministry said the arms package could trigger an arms race in South Asia. India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence in 1947.

"History has shown that whenever the arms and ammunition have been supplied to Pakistan by the United States, they have specifically been used against India," Mr. Bitta's letter said.

India claims Pakistan arms and trains separatist guerrillas in Kashmir, but Islamabad denies the charge, saying it provides only moral and diplomatic support.

ICRC: Only total ban can halt landmine deaths

VIENNA (R) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Tuesday called for a total ban on land mines and described the West's proposals to limit their use to "smart" mines as highly dangerous.

ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga said restricting the use of the weapons to so-called "smart" mines which self-destruct after a short time limit would set back attempts to halt the deaths and injuries of thousands of people every year.

"We think this is extremely dangerous because it will be difficult to have assurances that these 'intelligent' mines will really work," Mr. Sommaruga told Reuters.

The ICRC chief was due to address a review conference on a 1980 treaty on conventional weapons which aims to limit the use and production of anti-personnel mines across the world.

Mr. Sommaruga said it would be much easier for the international community to spot mine fields if their deployment was completely outlawed.

"If you allow intelligent mines then there has to be surveillance of what sort of mines are being used. A whole mechanism will have to be introduced to check," he said.

The United States and several Western countries are backing proposals to ban old-style land mines, so-called "dumb" mines, that can lie undetected for years after a conflict has ended.

"Smart" mines have a short life span and are designed to deactivate automatically.

Mr. Sommaruga said the ICRC was one of the frontline organisations which had to deal with the deaths and maiming caused by anti-personnel mines in former war zones.

"In the past 10 years our surgical teams have treated more than 200,000 victims of mines," he said.

"They have fitted 80,000 people with artificial limbs and you have to remember that is our organisation alone. There are others dealing with the casualties."

The greatest number of victims were not soldiers, but women and children, and farmers who had little choice but to till land that was once a battlefield, he said.

"Children have a tendency to play with what is strange. They see these devices, play with them and then they explode," Mr. Sommaruga added.

He said the greatest carnage was evident in Cambodia, Afghanistan and Angola.

"But it is not limited to Africa and Asia. We have mine crises in Europe too, in the Caucasus and in former Yugoslavia," he said.

"There is even a problem in areas between Ecuador and Peru following their border conflict earlier this year."

The United Nations estimates there to be 110 million live land mines yet to be located in some 64 countries.

Humanitarian groups, charities and non-governmental organisations are also pressing for a total ban on booby-trap devices and new, high-tech arms such as laser weapons that can cause permanent blindness.

The conference aims to pass a new document prohibiting laser weapons that are solely used to blind the enemy but the ban will not cover the deployment of laser beams on the battlefield against such targets as electro-optical devices.

U.S. supports Japan, Germany in reformed Security Council

UNITED NATIONS (AFP)

— U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said he wants Japan and Germany to be part of a reformed U.N. Security Council, and that how the United Nations is run needs far-reaching change.

Mr. Christopher, one of the first speakers opening debate at the 50th session of the U.N. General Assembly, blasted the bloated U.N. bureaucracy and criticised fiscal waste but said Washington was committed to maintaining its financial obligations.

ly represented, without making the Council unwieldy," Mr. Christopher said.

He said the role of the United Nations had changed greatly in recent years to have to respond to the challenges of humanitarian emergencies, civil wars and health epidemics.

"This evolution has placed great strains on the organisation, and revealed the necessity for far-reaching change in how it is run," Mr. Christopher said.

Mr. Christopher repeated the areas for reform during his speech.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, speaking at an official luncheon after Mr. Christopher's speech, took the opportunity to fight back.

His officials have repeatedly stressed the harm to the organisation caused by late and non-payments, and said the finances of the United Nations remain in crisis.

"And now is the time to break the cycle in which inadequate resources lead to inadequate results — which in turn are used to justify the withholding of resources," he said, in clear reference to Washington's late payments.

"Now is the time to give support to those who must take the most difficult decisions for reform," Dr. Ghali said, adding that "the United Nations cannot be taken for granted."

The United States owes the United Nations \$1.4 billion for its regular budget and peacekeeping assessments, which are about one-quarter and one-third of the total respectively. It pays late every year.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright had said Friday that the U.S. Congress — which wants to make further cuts to an already pared-down U.N. contribution — would be more forthcoming if the United Nations showed further reforms.

Security Council reform has been a hot topic for the last three years, and diplomats expect a change within one to two years.

Germany and Japan are the leading contenders for an expanded "permanent five" — which includes Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — but many countries have complained that such a composition would leave out the southern hemisphere and developing world.

"We should ensure that all the world's regions are fairly represented, without

committees and councils, having more accountability for money spent, and discontinuing large U.N. conferences until the recommendations of the previous ones can be acted upon.

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On another matter, Mr. Christopher repeated a call to the U.S. Senate to ratify the chemical weapons convention "and to stop holding it and the START II treaty hostage to unrelated issues."

Mr. Christopher also lauded the Palestinian-Israeli agreement Sunday to transfer control of territory in the occupied West Bank to its Arab residents. It is to be done formally in a White House ceremony Thursday.

"Another historic milestone will be marked this Thursday in Washington

when Israel and the Palestinians sign their agreement to implement phase two of the declaration of principles," he said.

"That agreement will bring to life a goal first set in the Camp David accords — that is, to protect Israel's security and to give Palestinians throughout the West Bank control over their daily lives.

"Japan Tuesday welcomed Mr. Christopher's remarks suggesting expanding the number of permanent seats on the Security Council to include Germany and Japan.

A Foreign Ministry official said Japan is prepared to discharge its responsibilities if named a permanent member of the Security Council under a proposed reform of the U.N. framework.

The ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono would make similar suggestions in his address at the Assembly later Tuesday.

In a separate development, France told critics of its nuclear tests Monday they were aimed at paving the way for its adherence to a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty next year.

"Tests will be limited to eight at the maximum and will be completed by the end of May 1996," Ambassador Jean-Michel Gauzes told the General Assembly.

He was exercising his right of reply, at the end of the day, to several speakers who had criticised France and China for continuing to carry out underground nuclear tests.

Tahiti uneasy before 2nd French nuclear test

PAPEETE, French Polynesia (R)

Shopkeepers in the tourist paradise of Tahiti are taking up arms and hiring private security guards ahead of a second controversial French nuclear weapons test expected within the next 10 days.

But independence leaders and French officials say they doubt there will be an outbreak of rioting on the scale of the rampage by poor Polynesian youths that devastated Papeete on Sept. 6, the day after the first underground test at Mururoa Atoll.

"Nothing will happen after the second test if the gendarmes keep a low profile," said Oscar Temaru, leader of the Tavini Huiraatira Independence Movement.

Mr. Temaru said the Sept. 6 riots had done damage officially estimated at 209 million francs (\$40 million), including 55 million (\$11 million) to repair the main airport terminal which was burned down.

Some 19 other buildings

went up in flames and many shops were looted in the orgy of violence that began in the poor Faao shantytown close to the airport, 24 hours after the first French nuclear test beneath Mururoa, 1,200 Kilometres away.

Despite the calls for caution, some business are arming themselves to defend their shops and homes if necessary.

"I keep my rifle close to hand. I also have two machetes. My son and I are not afraid of the hooligans. Let them come," one Papeete jeweler said.

Shopkeepers have formed a "passive defence organization" to protect their property, but some say it may not remain passive if violence erupts again.

Yet the mood in Papeete appears less tense than before the first test, partly because the huge international media presence has been scaled down.

Some 19 other buildings

Some Polynesians say Mr. Temaru and his party lost support over the riots, which the French authorities blamed partly on a pro-independence trade union leader now in custody.

"I used to be a sympathiser, but after what happened, I'm finished with the independence movement," an office worker said.

A fisherman on the port of Papeete said the rioters had picked on the wrong targets. "If they had burned down the army headquarters or the high commissioner's office, I could understand that, but it's not the people of Papeete or the tourists who are responsible for the (nuclear) bomb," he said.

Mr. Flosse said he had been told in Paris that France would complete its final series of six to eight tests by the end of March, two months earlier than initially envisaged.

Tension grips north Sri Lanka amid fears of battles

COLOMBO (AFP)

Tension has gripped Sri Lanka's embattled northern Jaffna peninsula amid fears of a massive military onslaught against the Tamil Tiger guerrillas ahead of monsoon rains, travellers from the region said Tuesday.

Fears of a renewed offensive have been heightened by a series of air force attacks on suspected targets inside Jaffna, the stronghold of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels, the latest issue of Inside Report said.

The government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga slapped censorship on all military-related reports Thursday but lifted restrictions on foreign correspondents late Monday.

"People are expecting another offensive any time now. There is a lot of tension in Jaffna," a Tamil civilian told reporters after crossing rebel lines and arriving at the government-held town of Vavuniya Tuesday.

The LTTE's official organ, the Inside Report, said the security forces were pouring thousands of men and heavy guns into the peninsula, the symbol of Tamil separatism, to launch an operation before monsoon rains this month or early

instances when battle plans were published in the Sunday papers even before the operations could get underway properly.

Tamil travellers from Jaffna said that about 50 people were killed and nearly 100 wounded in the latest air force action in Jaffna. The Defence Ministry Monday expressed regret if civilians were among the victims.

"The government is not in a position to verify the accuracy of the Tiger claims of civilian casualties or to the possible source of such casualties."

"However, if any of these casualties have been caused unintentionally in the course of the attacks carried out by the air force, it is deeply regretted," the ministry said in

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Readyng for new phase

WITH THE Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel having reached agreement on the expansion of Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories, the Arab-Israeli peace process has entered a new and critical phase upon which the prospect of attaining a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East will largely depend.

Success in implementing the fresh accord is a responsibility that not only Israel but the whole international community should shoulder. The influential powers in the world must live up to the promises they made to the Palestinian leadership in order to enable it to rehabilitate the Palestinian economy, which has been crippled by about three decades of occupation. So must Israel facilitate the work of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) by dealing with the Palestinians in the mentality of a peace-seeking nation and not that of an occupier. That means no more arbitrary arrests, no more confiscation of land and no more reneging on commitments. The PNA's role in ensuring the success of the Taba deal is instrumental, to say the least.

The agreement represents an important first step towards building a Palestinian state. But this state should be constructed on strong foundations that transcend personalities and correspond with the aspirations of all Palestinians for a democratic country in which the rule of the law prevails. The PNA must build institutions that can safeguard the cause of political pluralism and democracy and ensure continuity in the policies of the state to be.

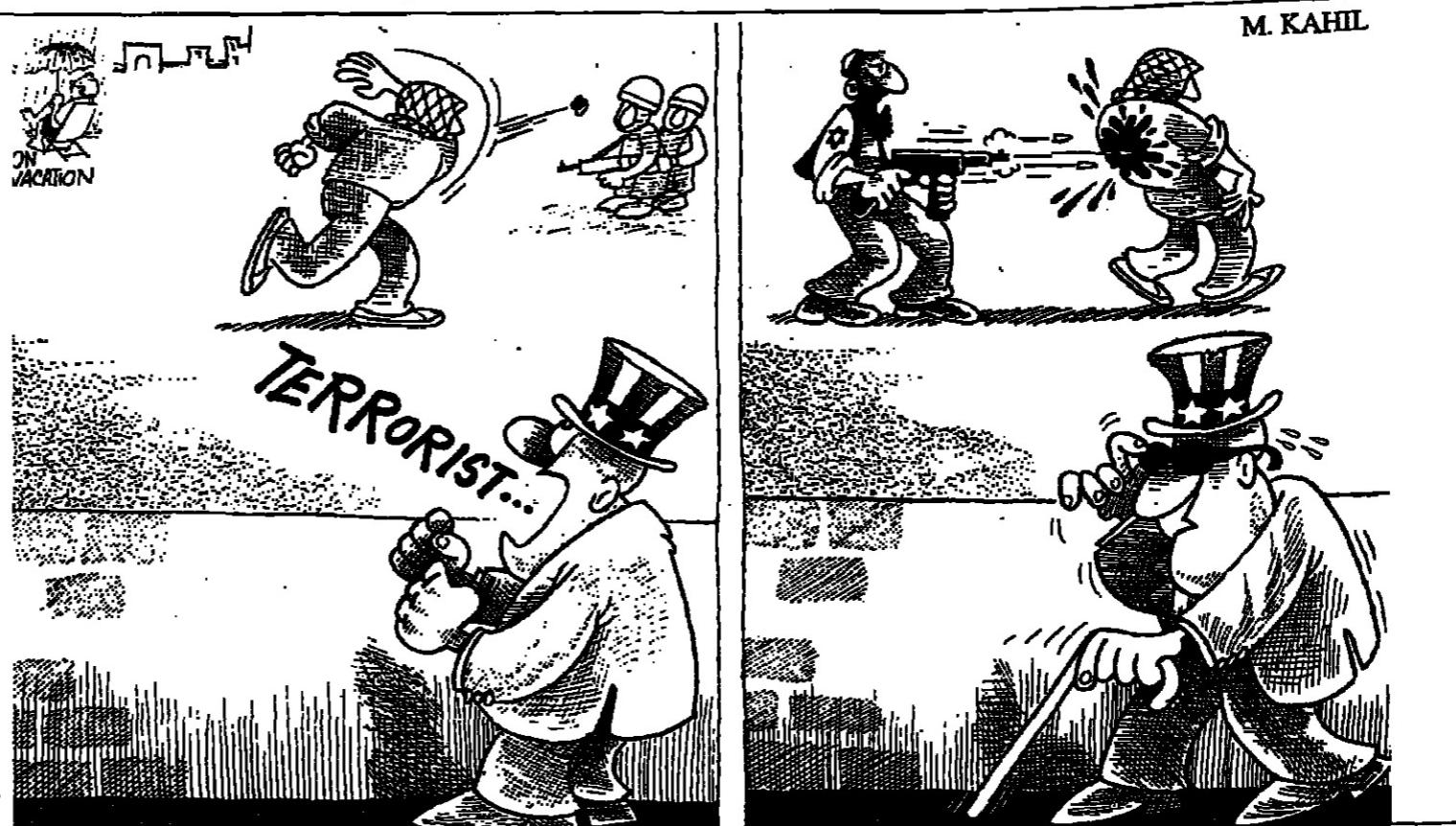
There is no doubt that a democratic Palestinian state will realise that its long term interests can best be served by maintaining good ties with its Arab neighbours, especially Jordan, for obvious reasons.

The fruits of coordination with Jordan were best demonstrated during the tortuous talks that led to the Taba agreement. PNA President Yasser Arafat did in fact acknowledge the impact of the intervention of His Majesty King Hussein in the negotiations had on solving the problems facing the Palestinian delegation to the talks with the Israelis, particularly the issue of Hebron. Jordan has left no doubt about its commitment to helping the Palestinian people and the events of the last few years have shown the respect with which the international community, including Israel, have for Jordan. A closer Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is definitely mutually beneficial to both sides. Such coordination is urgently needed at this juncture, especially also in view of the enormous challenges that will continue to face the region as a whole.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING on the initialing of the agreement between the Palestinians and Israel for expanding self-rule to the West Bank, a writer in Al Ra'i said the implementation of the accord was more important than the agreement itself. The accord, said Mahmoud Riawi, will encounter many obstacles and difficulties even after it is officially signed in Washington. The writer said it remained to be seen whether Israel will remain committed to the agreement and keen on implementing it. The Israelis are known to be slow in honouring agreements with Arabs, the writer said, adding that the 18 months needed for the implementation of the new accord could be jeopardised by confrontations between the Jewish settlers living in the heart of Hebron and Palestinians in the city. The writer said the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) should start preparations now for the final status negotiations, which cover such questions as refugees and the status of Jerusalem. The Palestinians require the skill and efficiency of qualified politicians and academics specialising in international law to help them achieve the aspired goal, added the writer. The task facing the Palestinian National Authority is much greater ever and requires all the efficiency and skills that can be mustered, the writer said.

ANOTHER writer in Al Ra'i paid tribute to Japan for its continued assistance to Jordan and the Japanese-Jordanian relationship, which, he said, constitutes one of the main elements of regional stability. Hussein Abu Rumman said that no doubt financial and economic assistance by Japan is bound to help ensure sustainable development which is a vital component of a lasting peace. Referring to the Japanese prime minister's recent visit to Jordan and other countries in the region, the writer said that it clearly reflected Tokyo's interests at the economic and political levels while Tokyo's participation in the multilateral phase of the peace process demonstrates Japan's keenness on ensuring peace in an area which continually supplies the Japanese industry with oil.



Washington Watch

The war against the PLO continues

IN THE halls of the U.S. Congress, the war against the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) continues. A recent visit to the battlefield showed a most unpretty sight.

With only 24 hours notice, I was invited to testify before a House Committee on International Relations hearing on the Middle East peace process. I was the only Arab-American present, and of the other nine groups invited to give testimony, eight were Jewish. The final group invited to testify called itself the Christian Israel Public Affairs Committee.

The tone of the hearings was completely out of touch with the political realities of the peace process. The issues raised, the allegations made, and the questions asked were so utterly bizarre and fantastic that the session might have been funny — if it were not for the fact that the impact that the U.S. Congress has on policy can be deadly serious. The purpose of the hearings, it appeared, was not to gain information on the peace process but to discredit the PLO and end U.S. financial support for Palestinians.

The statements made by the members of Congress at the opening of the hearings shared a set of common themes. Among them:

Israel has honoured the peace accord while the Palestinians have not.

— The Palestine National Authority (PNA) has misused U.S. aid; and, therefore

— Congress ought to pass new legislation suspending economic assistance to the Palestinians.

While a number of members of Congress spoke, the statements of three sponsors of a bill to stop U.S. aid are worthy of special attention.

What was intriguing about the comments of Republican Congressmen Michael Forbes (R-NY), Jim Saxton (R-NJ) and Tom Delay (R-TX) was their unbridled contempt for the PLO and the PNA. Their speeches were filled with disinformation and betrayed an astounding ignorance. Pro-Likud groups in Israel and

the U.S. had supplied the speakers with "documentation" of alleged Palestinian violations of the declaration of principles (DoP) on which they based their arguments.

But it was not only the case that the members of Congress sought to make that was disturbing — it was also the disregard for truth and disrespect for the Palestinian leadership they demonstrated in making that case.

Listening to their arguments about just one issue, such as the use of U.S. funds by the PLO, sounded more like a bad story than a U.S. congressman speaking about a real situation. Congressman Forbes' words may serve as an example. "Despite a lifetime of mistrust of the PLO and revolution toward their terrorist tactics," Mr. Forbes told the committee:

"I originally supported the Clinton administration's promise of U.S. assistance to the Palestinians. It is an open secret that the PLO is systematically violating the accords, yet U.S. taxpayer money continues to flow, much of directly to (PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat and his cronies.... I can't explain this to my constituents, nor can I bear to watch an unrepentant enemy of Israel be built up with our money, posing a future threat to our ally...."

"It is nothing short of scandalous that U.S. taxpayer money continues to flow to Arafat and his anti-Israel allies.... Our ally Israel has made strenuous efforts to live up to its commitments made at Oslo (while the PLO is) systematically violating virtually all of the Oslo principles..."

Congressman Jim Saxton (R-NJ) and Tom Delay (R-TX) made many of the same arguments, but also made repeated reference to what they termed "\$500 million in American aid to the PLO."

Congressman Saxton argued that "American taxpayers have a right to know where their foreign aid money is going.... This aid money was never intended to be used for bribes for loyalists to Yasser Arafat." Mr. Saxton therefore called for new legislation "before we extend another \$1 billion to the PNA or the PLO directly."

And according to a written statement sent to Congress by AID, the Agency is convinced that there is total accounting for all U.S. dollar spent.

In other words, U.S. aid to the Palestinians is administered in the same manner as all U.S. foreign aid — except, of course, U.S.

lion to the PLO, given our domestic concerns...."

Even a casual observer of the peace process could not but be puzzled by such a total distortion of reality.

In fact, the U.S. is not giving \$500 million to the PNA, and members of Congress who actually voted on the legislation should be expected to know that. The U.S. gives \$75 million a year and has committed to this amount for five years, for a total of \$375 million.

The other \$125 million of

Mr. Saxton's figure is not real money at all. It is a U.S. commitment to underwrite loan guarantees from commercial banks to private U.S. companies with approved projects — and to this day the agency charged with honouring this pledge has not yet approved a single project!

The \$75 million annual

U.S. commitment does not go to the PNA, in fact, it goes to the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID).

AID then disburses the money according to priorities determined by the money going to U.S. contractors with approved projects while another part of it goes to U.S. charitable organisations which do work in the West Bank and Gaza. And some of the funds go to U.S. consulting groups to perform studies and establish training programmes in Gaza and the West Bank.

A study has shown that about 20 of each of these dollars ends up being spent in the Palestinian lands, with the rest going to U.S. contractors.

In the past years, some AID money has also gone to the World Bank fund established to pay the Palestinian police and other administrative costs. All of these funds are separately administered by international agencies.

No U.S. funds go to the PNA or the PLO directly.

And according to a written statement sent to Congress by AID, the Agency is convinced that there is total accounting for all U.S. dollar spent.

This split in the pro-Israel community is an important new fact of life in Washington and is one reason why the war against the PLO continues with such intensity.

Israel may be trying to

make peace with the PLO, but its pro-Likud politicians and their U.S. allies and the members of Congress they influence are clearly not

ready for any meaningful peace. Too many years of anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab rhetoric have built up in Washington, and many members of Congress find it easier to play by the old rules and appeal to the extremists than to adapt to the new to the extremists than to adopt to the new paradigm of the peace process.

A compounding factor is the failure of the administration to act more forcefully in challenging congressional distortions regarding both the Palestinians and the U.S.-Palestinian relationship. While some in the administration have spoken out at times, they also seem constrained by a wariness of challenging the extremists. And so the response is more timid than it ought to be, especially given the vehemence of the attacks.

But, of course, just as the facts were of no particular concern at the hearings, neither was accountability.

The agenda of those members of Congress who participated in this campaign was to discredit the PLO. And U.S. assistance to the Palestinians and, thereby, undercut the peace process itself.

It appears that these hearings were called in response to press from some members of the Congress and their pro-Israel supporters. Next week, Congress must vote on whether or not to continue U.S. aid to the Palestinians. And while the committee leadership wants to extend Palestinian aid, they feel sufficiently constrained by extremist elements to provide hearings in which an anti-Palestinian propaganda war can be waged.

During the hearings, the mainstream Jewish groups which testified were quite responsible. AIPAC (the well-known pro-Israel lobby). The American-Jewish Committee and the American-Jewish Congress all spoke in defence of continuing Palestinian aid and in support of the Palestinian role in the peace process. But they were attacked by the more extremists groups and challenged by some of the members of the committee.

This split in the pro-Israel community is an important new fact of life in Washington and is one reason why the war against the PLO continues with such intensity.

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make peace with the PLO, but its pro-Likud politicians and their U.S. allies and the members of Congress they influence are clearly not

Israel deal starts clock for Syria pact

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuter

WASHINGTON — This week's Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement starts the countdown for the United States to try to clinch a deal between the Jewish state and Syria, the last main holdout to a comprehensive Middle East peace.

Can the two sworn foes reach a settlement on an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights before the onset of Israeli and U.S. elections in 1996 means all bets are off?

The accord struck on Sunday by Israel and the PLO to expand Palestinian self-rule across most of the West Bank has left Syria to try to make up for the lost time.

The official Syrian newspaper Tishreen said the deal had sold out Palestinian rights and would mean that "the situation in the

Arab occupied lands is open to more explosions."

But despite the rhetoric from Damascus, U.S. officials are hoping Sunday's pact will clear the way for them to re-focus their efforts on the Israeli-Syrian peace "track" after three months in which there has been no visible progress.

"I certainly haven't given up on that," Secretary of State Warren Christopher told Reuters in an interview. "I hope we can re-ignite that track to make progress between now and the end of the year, and even into next year."

Mr. Christopher pledged that he would resume his personal shuttle diplomacy between Israel and Syria to try to make up for the lost time.

The outlines of an agreement have been clear ever since the slow-moving negotiations began almost four years ago.

Essentially, Israel withdraws from the strategic Golan plateau, which is seized in 1967, and Syria agrees to peace and diplomatic relations with Israel.

But the details involve painful concessions by both sides, and the key question for Israel and Syria remains: Is it worth making those sacrifices for the sake of an agreement?

The Syrian maintain — and many other Arabs believe them — that they are not going to make peace on anything except their own terms. Israeli elections or no elections.

But Washington believes that, whatever the Syrians may say, the agreement with the Palestinians, following earlier accords with Jordan and Egypt, faces Syria with the risk of political and economic isolation unless it follows suit.

A U.S.-backed Middle

East and North African Economic Summit in Amman on Oct. 29-31, which Syria and its ally Lebanon are boycotting, is intended to hammer home the message that economic benefits await those who make peace.

"I've always thought that progress on one track tends to incentivise the parties on another track," Mr. Christopher commented on the Israel-PLO accord, to be signed on Thursday on the White House lawn. "I think that's all the be effect here."

Another U.S. official put it less diplomatically: "I think (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin has concluded he can do without a deal with Syria," he said.

"I think (Syrian President Hafez Al-) Assad knows that if there isn't any agreement now, there isn't any agreement. There's not going to be any Arab front

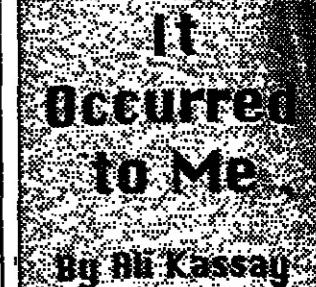
against Israel, nothing."

Still, some Middle East analysts believe the U.S. thinking misreads Mr. Assad's psychology, and that, having done without the Golan Heights for 28 years, he is not about to bow to Israeli terms for a peace agreement he is far from enthusiastic about.

One U.S. official said it should be clear within about the next six weeks which way Mr. Assad decided to go.

Some officials are also beginning to say that the best that can be hoped for may be a framework agreement that would still require some details filled in after Israel's June elections. Those elections could bring to power a Likud government much less willing to give up the Golan.

Israel and Syria are at odds over the timing and scope of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.



Nouveau riche of the year

THE CHANGE of seasons is always a melancholy time. As far as seasons go, summer in Jordan is particularly agreeable. The long days allow ample space before bedtime, and the cool evenings are perfectly conducive to the noble occupation of idly reclining in an easy chair on a terrace, to indulge in gossip and scandal while fortifying oneself for the task at hand with long potions of some invigorating brew.

But the transition to autumn calls for reflection on seasons past, a dangerous occupation since man's brightest ideas come to him only when it is too late to do anything about them. Only now has it occurred to me that summer could be an occasion for sporting competition and rewarding excellence in a field where Jordanians manifest great resourcefulness: Garish weddings.

As if by an unwritten law, with the appearance of the first swallow, Jordanians roll up their sleeves, spit on their hands, and set about with remarkable application to organise weddings in the worst taste. Fortunes are devoted to that quest. Imagination roams rampant and produces stunning special effects.

As a permanent fixture on the terrace of a certain hotel in Amman, I have seen it all: Flights of doves emerging from balloons, billowing clouds of smoke, a bridge spanning the diminutive swimming pool, and revolving floodlights reminiscent of prisoner-of-war films.

Friends and relations relate tales of greater horror where an elephant was brought to regale the guests, of a car driven into the lobby of an hotel, and even of diamonds given to the guests instead of the traditional iced almonds, doubtless on the instigation of the dentists' association.

All this takes place to the accompaniment of a cacophony of music, guided by the principle that louder is better. The tranquillity of the evening is abruptly shattered by a trumpet blast that sends you searching for your earplugs on the floor. This announcement of the bride is followed by the professional and timeless Zaffah, which competes with Verdi's March of Radames, Vangelis' 1492 and Warda's Batwannah Beek to make conversation impossible.

Such devoted labour should not go unnoticed, nor unrewarded. I have taken a resolution to spend the time until next summer setting up a national panel that would assess weddings on pre-set and relevant criteria like cost of menu, height of cake, quantity of flowers, special effects, quantity of gold adorning the bride, number of plastic surgeries which the bride has undergone, and loudness and incompatibility of music. Every autumn, the winner will proudly receive the title: "Nouveau riche of the year".

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Col. Qadhafi began
ejecting the 30,000 Palestinians in
Libya in early September in a bid
to swamp the West Bank and
Gaza Strip to show that the
Israeli-PLO autonomy
accords had failed to create a
Palestinian homeland. But
the campaign slowed after
intense Arab pressure.

His new order on Sunday
came the day that Mr. Arafat
and Israeli Foreign Minister
Shimon Peres reached a deal for
the second phase of
autonomy to extend self-rule
over the West Bank.

The Libyan official said 20
army tents had been set up at
Mosaed to "house" the
ejected Palestinians so their
travel papers can be sent to
the Egyptians for permission
to enter."

Cairo has refused entry to
Palestinians at Salloum if they
cannot prove they have
permits to travel directly
through Egypt to either Gaza
or Jordan.

Some 5,000 Palestinians,
"perhaps far more," have
crossed through Salloum since
the start of the month, the U.N. High Commissioner
for Refugees (UNHCR) said
in Cairo.

Most had gone on to Gaza
and Jordan, but 21 remained
trapped for over three weeks in
"appalling conditions" in
no man's land near Salloum,

Panos Mountzis, the
UNHCR head of foreign rela-

"It's like a rubbish dump"

with no shelter or supplies,

he said.

He said Mr. Mountzis, adding
that he had seen the Libyan
tent camp during a visit to
Salloum on Monday.

He warned the problem of
the expulsions is "just being
dumped from one border to
another."

The Jewish state is refusing
entry to those who cannot
prove they have permanent
residence in the Gaza Strip,
while Lebanon has slapped
visa restrictions on Palestini-

ans kicked out of Libya.

Jordan also set up a camp
at its southern port of Aqaba
as a "sorting station" for
Palestinians returning or
transiting the country en-
route to the West Bank. Mr.
Mountzis said.

The camp, named Al
Rabia, would house 158
stranded Palestinians who
left Salloum on Saturday. A
first group of 89 Palestinians
had already arrived at the
camp and "a second batch is
expected very soon," he said.

Another group of 40 left
Sunday for the Egyptian border
post of Rafah to cross
into the Gaza Strip, where
they had residence, but Mr.
Mountzis could not confirm
if they had arrived.

Two hundred more Palestini-

ans crossed from Libya
through Salloum on Monday
en route to Gaza, he said.

Libya has quietly squeezed
out its Palestinians over the
past four months, but the
campaign intensified in early
September with Col. Qadhafi
urging Arab nations to follow
suit.

Sudan had moved to help
those kicked out of the coun-

try by setting up a committee
and has drawn up plans for
transportation.

Those expelled would be
returned home in trucks and
buses hired from Libyans and
taken to three centres in
Mileit, Hamrat Al Sheikh in
the west and Dongola in
northern Sudan.

Senior Sudanese official
Tajeddin Al Mahdi had left
for Libya 10 days ago to try to
regulate the situation and was
working to arrange the trans-
port home of Sudanese without
residence permits or
working contracts, who had
entered Libya without per-

mission.

Earlier, there had been re-
ports that Libya — under
pressure from Egypt and the
Arab League — had agreed to
halt the expulsions and even let some of the Palestini-

ans return.

But amid further deportations,
Palestinian Foreign Minister
Farouk Al Kadouni met Libyan Arab
Affairs Minister Guma Al
Fazani last Thursday to try to
resolve the dispute, but failed, said Mohammad
Sobeh, the Palestinian envoy
to the Arab League.

Meanwhile, there are signs
the Libyans are seeking to
hire Iraqis to replace other
Arab nationals.

Last week Libya dispatched
a recruiting delegation to
Baghdad, Iraqi sources said
on condition of anonymity. There
are now some 65,000 Iraqis in Libya,
mainly teachers and doctors as well as
industrial and agricultural experts.

Early on Monday, the
King addressed the par-
liamentary assembly of the
Council of Europe and also
met with senior officials from
the European Parliament, in-
cluding President Miguel
Martinez and senior rep-
resentatives from the EU member
states.

Their Majesties King Hus-
sein and Queen Noor and the
delegation accompanying them arrived in Washington

on Sunday.

King reaffirms stands

(Continued from page 1)

peoples.

"Our Palestinian brethren

are the closest to us and we

are closer to them than all

Arabs in history and geo-
graphy and equal suffering,"

the King said. They have learned

to have their say regarding

their future, and sought to
recover their rights on their

land, the King said.

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liamentary assembly of the
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resentatives from the EU member
states.

"I have never been for the
occupation of Kuwait and I spoke
time and again of the
inadmissibility of acquisition
of territory by war," the King
said.

On the future of
Jordanian-Palestinian rela-
tions, King Hussein said that
Jordan maintains unique rela-
tions with the Palestinians,
but that talking about a possi-
ble federation should be left
to the free decision of the two

countries.

King reaffirms stands

(Continued from page 1)

yet." compensation expert

Adel Assem told Reuters.

Mr. Assem, general manager
of the public authority for
assessment of compensation

for damages resulting from
Iraqi occupation, was con-
firming an official Kuwait

News Agency report quoting
him as disclosing the figure.

He added that the figure

was additional to the \$94.8

billion in claims the authori-

ty has already filed to the U.N.

Compensation Committee, a

tanker loading terminal. The

last well was extinguished in

late 1991. Large areas of

coast and desert were cov-
ered with oil for months.

France meanwhile urged

Iraq to accept a U.N. resolu-

tion allowing it to export

crude oil to purchase hu-
manitarian goods, such as food

and medicine.

French Foreign Minister

Herve de Charette told re-

porters late Monday that he

made the recommendation to

his Iraqi colleague Moham-

mad Al Sahar during a meet-

ing earlier in the day on the

sidelines of the U.N. General

Assembly.

In the last days of the

occupation Iraqi troops tor-

ched or damaged 700 oil-

wells, three refineries and a

tanker loading terminal. The

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Europe unlikely to turn to M.E. for gas

ABU DHABI (R) — Middle East gas producers will struggle to secure export markets in Europe despite projections of growing European gas consumption and uncertainty over future Russian supplies, experts have said.

Multi-billion-dollar liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects are being developed in Qatar, Oman and Yemen but only Qatar has so far managed to secure firm sales agreements and these are predominantly with Japanese energy companies.

Hopes that Gulf projects could be underpinned by sales to European power utilities and industrial consumers operating in an increasingly deregulated gas market are now being questioned.

"Europe will be a very difficult and challenging

opportunity to capture," Geoffrey Roberts, president of electricity utility Enron Europe Ltd told delegates at a conference on Middle East gas in the United Arab Emirates capital Abu Dhabi.

Conference speakers said Europe will import its future gas needs from Russia, Algeria, Nigeria and the North Sea because of their price competitiveness over long-haul LNG supplies from new plants being built in the Gulf.

Though Europe is vulnerable to possible gas supply disruptions from Russia in future, investments in gas pipeline export capacity in the Norwegian and British North Sea would satisfy northern European demand while growing Algerian supplies would capture new markets in the Mediterranean;

speakers said.

"Middle East LNG makes little sense (for Europe) in the plannable future," James Ball, senior partner at consultants Gas Strategies said, adding that current gas sales from Abu Dhabi to Belgium and Spain would remain limited.

The delivered cost of LNG to Europe from one of Qatar's three advanced LNG projects would be \$4 per Million British Thermal Units (MBTU) compared to \$2.89 MBTU for incremental supplies from Algeria, Mr. Ball said.

Though Middle East gas producers could compete for sales to Greece and Turkey, they needed \$5 per MBTU to make a 15 per cent return on a northwest European round trip of over 12,000 miles (20,000 kilometres), Michael

Corke of analysts Purvin and Gertz said.

Gulf LNG export prices to Europe were higher than its competitors because of the cost of long-haul shipping and the investment needed to build new gasification trains rather than expand existing facilities as in Algeria.

Western European companies are reported to be reluctant to pay more than \$2.50 per MBTU to diversify their supplies.

Gulf LNG projects would have to mainly rely on long-term sales contracts to Far East and Asian customers where higher prices could be guaranteed, delegates said.

"It seems inevitable that the large and growing demand for gas in Asia will be met from the Middle East," Arthur Dixon, general manager of marketing at Shell

International Gas said.

Delegates from Gulf state oil and gas companies also agreed that their marketing focus had to remain with the main consumer markets in the Far East when exports start in the new decade.

"If Europe can rely on Russia... the biggest market will be in the East," an Omani delegate told Reuters.

Plans for giant cross-border gas pipelines stretching from the Middle East to Europe remain on the drawing board but they will have difficulty in securing finance, delegates said.

Demand for gas in Western Europe will hit 338 million tonnes of oil equivalent at the turn of the century and 433 million in 2010 from 261 million in 1993, Purvin and Gertz figures show.

Saudi economy seen as stable in short-term

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Saudi economy looks likely to stabilise in the short term as the Gulf oil heavyweight pushes ahead with reforms to offset weak crude prices and expand non-oil sectors, experts have said.

"Such stability means the government is determined to adopt rational policies to manage the economy. In the face of internal and external challenges, stabilisation of the Saudi economy is itself an accomplishment," the study added.

The study, published in ACIG's 360-page Arab report for 1994, said Saudi Arabia had managed to cut the budget deficit to 3.3 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 1995 from as high

as 3.8 per cent in 1994.

This was done through a spending cut to 150 billion Saudi riyals (\$40 billion) from 160 billion riyals (\$42.6 billion) and a projected increase in earnings to \$36 billion from \$32 billion.

The forecast rise in revenues was based on an increase in income from oil exports and service fees after the government hiked some service charges.

ACIG, a Kuwaiti-based Arab League institution, said several sectors in Saudi Arabia were projected to record positive growth rates in the short term.

They include export-oriented industries, petrochemicals, food products, banking, education, communication, water and electricity, and defence.

But other sectors were expected to register negative growth, including the public sector, oil, contracting, agriculture, cement and other building materials, real estate and public works.

It gave no figures but the Saudi economy has sharply slowed down over the past decade due to a drop in crude prices. In 1994, the private sector grew by around five per cent while the government sector shrank.

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"The plan envisages lower expenditure but this will be offset by projections of higher investment and a greater role by the private sector."

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Europe's single currency hopes thrown in doubt

Gas projects to boost Qatari economy

ABU DHABI (AFP)

Qatar's economy is set to overcome the effects of weak oil prices and pick up in the next few years when the Gulf OPEC producer completes one of the biggest gas liquefaction projects in the world, an official report said Wednesday.

By 2000 Qatar will be able to export 16 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Japan and other Asian consumers and production will jump to 24 million tonnes five years later, said the report by the Kuwait-based Arab Corporation for Investment Guarantee (ACIG).

"Gas will play a significant role in the Qatari economy in the medium and long terms after the completion of LNG projects," it said. "For the time being, however, the economy will remain under the effect of fluctuating oil prices and other external factors."

Qatar has embarked on multi-billion-dollar projects to tap its giant North Field, the biggest reservoir of natural gas in the world, with estimated reserves of around 7.09 trillion cubic metres (236.3 trillion cubic feet).

quell the rising tide of doubt and argued for no deviation from the path agreed by member states in 1991 of economic and monetary union (EMU).

"We must not deviate from the road set out for EMU," commission President Jacques Santer said.

But its position has become

more precarious as a growing number of top-level officials question the logic of a monetary union with either too few members or one enlarged on the basis of a generous reading of the treaty's requirements.

In Germany, Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer said the timetable for a single

currency should take a back seat to a proper foundation.

Germany has been at the forefront arguing for strict adherence to the treaty's economic criteria on concerns that too liberal an interpretation would weaken the entire project.

"Despite the basic Maastricht treaty, much is still

unclear at present," the German central bank chief said in a speech to a Frankfurt conference.

His views were echoed by officials in Bonn who suggested there might be a slight delay to the official 1999 start date.

The furore over monetary union was unleashed last

March when German Finance Minister Theo Waigel told a closed-door session of the German parliament that Italy would not be among the first wave forming a single currency.

His remarks shook the Italian government, prompting Prime Minister Lamberto Dini to ask for a delay of one or two years for countries like Italy to meet the treaty's criteria.

But while the Germans at first appeared alone in their concern, it has become apparent that others share in their desire for more cautious approach.

Italian central bank governor Antonio Fazio told a subcommittee of the European Parliament that the rules governing economic and monetary union should not be "weakened or made flexible."

He also welcomed any efforts that would strengthen budget discipline after the introduction of a single currency.

Financial market participants appeared to view the malstrom over monetary union as a recipe for disaster, with some suggesting it might fall apart entirely.

"You might say that by speaking the unspeakable the whole process is in danger of running into the sand," said Robin Marshall, chief economist of Chase Manhattan Bank in London.

Dutch central bank president Wim Duisenberg said that many member states would not meet the criteria, but stressed that they should be strictly applied.

"In all probability most member states will have great difficulty rounding off their macroeconomic preparations for the start of phase three," Mr. Duisenberg told a financial forum in Belgium.

Hunting at the possibility of delay, Mr. Duisenberg added: "Introduction of a single currency should not be forced, because it will reduce the public's acceptance of the currency."

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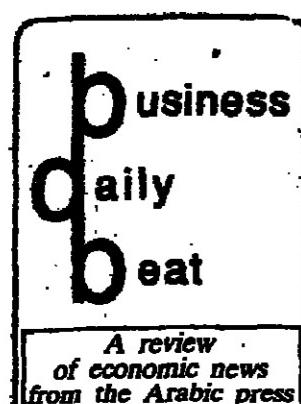
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Study: A family needs JD 580 minimum income per month

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) marked its 30th anniversary Tuesday with a call on Jordanian entrepreneurs who lack finance to realise their business ideas to take advantage of an IDB risk capital programme that offers up to JD 850,000 for feasible projects.

IDB Chairman Munther Fahoun and Director-General Rajab Sa'd made the call at a press conference, where they also outlined the general activities of the IDB since its inception in 1965 and how the state agency contri-

buted to the industrial development of the Kingdom.

They said the IDB had up to \$3.5 million available for the risk capital programme under which the bank takes a certain percentage of equity in commercially feasible industrial projects and retains the equity participation for a period of 20 years before asking the entrepreneur to buy out the IDB.

In return, the IDB will absorb losses, if any, as well as take a share of the profits.

However, the programme has not drawn enough attention from Jordanian entrepreneurs, said Mr. Fahoun.

"It is not a problem of

availability of funds," he said. "It is a problem of demand. People do not seem to be aware of the existence of the programme."

"We call upon our young men with innovative ideas and projects to contact the bank if they lack capital to implement them," said Mr. Fahoun.

The IDB has already extended about JD 1.5 million to 27 projects under the risk capital scheme and turned down only one application.

Because the project was not found to be feasible, said Mr. Fahoun.

An individual project could seek up between JD

20,000 and JD 250,000 under the risk capital scheme, and if it has a partner from any of the European Union (EU) countries then it could seek up to JD 850,000, he added.

"We now have about five million ECUs (European Currency Units), about \$6.5 million available under the scheme," said Mr. Sa'd, noting that the funds had come from the European Investment Bank (EIB) under bilateral protocols signed by the government of Jordan and the European Union.

"We have not exhausted the source, and there are other sources for funding the

scheme," added Mr. Fahoun.

In its regular operations, the IDB, which finances projects in the industrial and tourism sectors — including hotels, restaurants and tourism transport operations — has lent about JD 255 million in the last 30 years.

This represents roughly half the actual investment in projects since the IDB involvement is limited to 50 per cent of the total investment.

Mr. Fahoun said the IDB, which has a capital of JD 12 million, had not carved out any specific role for itself at the Middle East and North

Africa (MENA) economic summit; nor had it allocated any amount for financing projects that might come up at the summit. The reason, he said, is simple: Most of the projects on the table at the summit involve tens of millions of dollars in investments and the IDB is not equipped to do that.

"Our focus is on small- and medium-size industrial projects that we could handle ourselves with Jordan," said Mr. Fahoun. As such, involvement in the multi-million dollar projects, which also have a regional nature, is beyond the realm of the

IDB's mandate and scope.

At the same time, said Mr. Sa'd, the IDB will be looking closely at the private sector projects expected to be submitted at the summit for possibilities of financing.

Mr. Fahoun said the IDB had a clear role to play in helping the industrial sector to develop in Jordan in the absence of other similar institutions. As such, he said, a reported World Bank recommendation that Jordan do away with specialised financial institutions — a category that broadly includes the IDB — should not have any bearing on the IDB.

Japan's Daiwa Bank posts big bond loss in New York

OSAKA, Japan (R) — Daiwa Bank, one of Japan's top ten commercial banks, said Tuesday that a senior executive at its New York branch had run up huge losses of \$1.1 billion in bond trading at its New York office.

The branch, which was based on a national sample taken from different social grades, reflected the divergence in incomes and needs required to satisfy these sectors. The sample consisted of 2,944 families of whom 556 families (or 19.6 per cent) had an income less than JD 150 a month. But this will be offset by the incomes of high-end and a greater private sector.

— 1,236 families (or 41.8 per cent) with a monthly income of between JD 150 and JD 299.

— 504 families (or 16.9 per cent) with a monthly income between JD 300 and JD 449.

— 315 families (10.5 per cent) with a monthly income between JD 450 and JD 599.

— 101 families (3.4 per cent) with a monthly income between JD 600 and JD 749.

— 222 families (7.7 per cent) with a monthly income more than JD 750. (Al Dustour)

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— 101 families (3.4 per cent) with a monthly income between JD 600 and JD 749.

— 222 families (7.7 per cent) with a monthly income more than JD 750. (Al Dustour)

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Qatar horses capture show

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Qatar horses Tuesday captured the show during the second day of the Sixth Arabian Horse At Home Show by winning the junior male and female competition.

Kamasayyah, from Al Shaqab stud, Qatar, won the

junior female championship. Simeon Shaas, owned by Tala Al Saleh, Royal Stud, came in second place.

In the junior male championship, Ibn Shahid, owned by Sheikh Nawaf Bin Nasser Al Thani, won first place. Shahin Al Shaqab, from Al Shaqab Stud, won the second place.

In the foal championship,

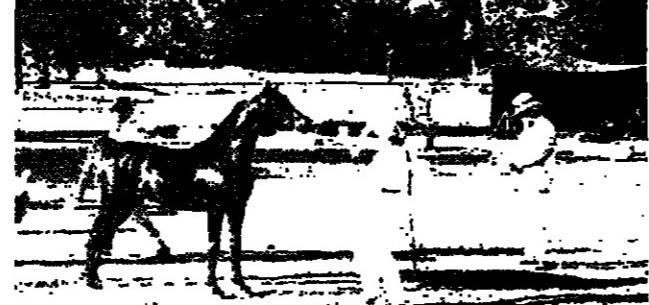


Qatari Sheikh Hamad Al Thani presents Her Royal Highness Princess Alia with a trophy (photo by Rana Husseini)

horse Juman from the Ja'afar stud came in first, followed by Al Haneefah and Hoodah, both from the Royal Stud, in second and third places respectively.

The competition, which officially opened Tuesday, was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Princess Alia and Princess Aisha and other Royal Family members.

In the foal competition,



Competitor showing the horse before foal competition (Photo by Rana Husseini)

IOC sets quotas for women in decision-making bodies

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) directed the world's Olympic bodies Tuesday to ensure that women make up at least 10 per cent of their decision-making structures within the next five years.

In a major step towards increasing the role of women in sports, the executive board of the International Olympic Committee said the figure should reach at least 20 per cent within 10 years.

The IOC ordered the world's 197 National Olympic Committees to meet the 10 per cent target by Dec. 31,

2000, and the 20 per cent level by Dec. 31, 2005.

The IOC "strongly invited" international and national federations and other sports organisations to meet the same targets.

There are currently six women presidents of National Olympic Committees and four women presidents of international federations.

"The executive board considered that it was necessary to intensify without delay the promotion of the presence of women within sport and its technical and administrative structures," the IOC said.

"The goal to be reached

within the Olympic movement is the strict enforcement of the principle of equality between men and women.

However, it is aware of the fact that such goal can only be progressively reached everywhere and that successive stages must be set."

The proposal will be submitted to the full IOC session for approval next July before the centennial games in Atlanta.

The IOC itself will have to comply with the rules. At the moment, the IOC has seven women among its 106 members. It will need to add at least four women by the year

2000 to meet the 10 per cent level.

One of the catalysts behind the move was U.S. member Anita DeFrantz, the only woman on the IOC executive board.

DeFrantz represented the IOC at the recent women's conference in Beijing.

"The percentage of women in the Olympic movement at IOC, international federation or national Olympic committees is still very low," she said in a speech to the conference. "This is one area in which the Olympic movement has to make particular efforts."

games in tiny Lillehammer, Norwegians won the most medals: 26. Most of those were thanks to the skiers who won 18 medals, including eight of the country's 10 gold.

After the 1988 games in Calgary — the first time in Norway's history that it failed to get a Winter Olympic gold medal — the ski federation and other winter sports orga-

nisations began a determined and costly drive to win back its position as a winter sports powerhouse.

"The money just kept flowing. It was like the Klondike. Mobile phones were pinging in every corner. The national ski team traipsed around the globe in search of the best snows. That was just the way it was," the newspaper commented.

The one-powerful federation has laid off 11 of its 24 staff, a battle to overcome a 42.1 million kroner (\$6.5 million) deficit blamed mainly on its obsession with taking as much precious metal as possible at Norway's games.

All week, horrified Norway has been asking how the guardian of its national sport had become a paper. The federation has produced some of the world's best skiers including Alpine champions Ole Kristian Furuseth, Lasse Kjus and Ketil Andre Aamodt and Nordic stars Vegard Ulvang and Bjorn Dæhlie.

"The situation in the ski federation is depressing to say the least. It is an economic scandal," says Minister of Culture Aase Kleveland, who has sport associations in her government portfolio.

But she warns that there isn't a single Norwegian kroner in the government pot to help out the skiers.

"There are two options: debt negotiation or bankruptcy," she says.

Jensen says it is impossible to believe it could go that far. "The most important thing is that we would lose all trust and credibility if we declare ourselves bankrupt," he says.

The ski federation is one of several sports association under the umbrella of the Norwegian Sports Federation. They all plan to meet Tuesday to discuss a possible bailout. The plan would include transfers from the associations and sponsorship from banks.

However, the Norwegian News Agency NTB says many of the other sports already run on shoestring budgets, and have little to spare.

Norway's largest newspaper, Verdens Gang, in a commentary, said last week the skiers' downhill slide started because of "the unanimous national demand for success at the Olympics at home."

Norwegians, nearly all 4.3 million of them, love skiing, on downhill slopes, Nordic trails or off dizzyingly high jumps. And when the winter Olympics came home — at least that's how this winter sports crazy country seems to see it — Norwegians demanded glory.

"They got it. Apart from putting on a virtually perfect

globe, the skiers have won the most medals: 26. Most of those were thanks to the skiers who won 18 medals, including eight of the country's 10 gold.

After the 1988 games in Calgary — the first time in Norway's history that it failed to get a Winter Olympic gold medal — the ski federation and other winter sports orga-

Tyson accused of detaining mother

NEW YORK (AFP) — Kimberly Scarborough, mother of an illegitimate daughter of Mike Tyson, has started proceedings for detention by the former world boxing champion. She claims Tyson imprisoned her in a Manhattan apartment in an attempt to force her to sign papers annulling settlement terms. She says she went to an apartment owned by Tyson's promoter Don King expecting to be given a cheque for \$450,000 to buy a house, but Tyson threatened she would not be allowed to leave until she had signed away her existing rights. Tyson relented after 20 minutes, she claims. Tyson has dismissed the claims as a lie and described the alleged promise to buy a house as nonsense. Scarborough has asked a court to force Tyson to pay \$550,000 to buy a house and for Tyson to take out life assurance for \$1.3 million for Michael Lorna "Mickey" Tyson. Tyson, who is already paying \$5,000 a month in maintenance, has also recognised a boy born out of wedlock as his son but has refused to recognise another boy born in Los Angeles as a son.

Waters makes winning comeback

DAPTO, Australia (AP) — Former world light-heavyweight title contender Guy Waters made a successful comeback after a 21-month absence when scored an eighth-round stoppage win over Venezuelan-born Armando Angel Rodriguez in a 10-round international contest Monday night. Waters, who failed in world title challenges against Dennis Andries and Virgil Hill, wore down Florida-based Rodriguez with an impressive left jab and halted him at 1:58 of the eighth. Referee Gary Dean stopped the contest after the Australian sent Rodriguez to the canvas with a left hook followed by an uppercut. Waters scaled 79.45 kilograms and improved his professional record to 16-3-1, while Rodriguez weighed 79.05 kg. and dropped to 17-7-1. He had a point deducted in the fifth round for low blows. On the same card, unbeaten Australian Shannon Taylor improved his record to 13-0 with second-round knockout win over American Willy Wise, of Westbury, New York, in a scheduled 10-round. Taylor scaled 66.95 kilograms — just above the welter-weight limit — while Wise scaled 66.65 kilos, his record dipped to 18-3-4.

S. Korean fans angry with Maradona

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea hoped to bolster its bid to be chosen host for the 2002 World Cup with promotions by soccer superstar Diego Maradona.

Instead, officials are faced with outraged fans, sulking children and a bill for about \$1.75 million.

For Maradona's nine-day visit, South Korea's Football Association had planned elaborate events, including a coaching clinic for children, an autograph session and a tour of a car factory.

All three were cancelled. Sunday, hundreds of angry fans protested loudly when Maradona, after a two-hour delay, dropped the coaching session for children at an amusement park.

A leading sports daily said Maradona had decided en route that he would rather practise, and ordered the car to turn around. "Children's dreams crushed by fickleness," the newspaper Ilgan sports reported.

The previous day, some 1,000 fans who had waited in the rain for an hour at Seoul's main train station for the superstar's autograph were disappointed when he left after performing tricks for just 10 minutes.

His Tuesday trip to Hyundai's automotive plant was also cancelled. Hyundai is a major backer of South Korea's bid against Japan to play host to the world soccer tournament.

Criticism against Maradona, as well as soccer officials, was also mounting because South Korea is obliged to pay even though scheduled events were cancelled.

"It was an understanding that he would take part in promotional activities, but it's not part of the contract or anything," said a Korea Football Association official, who asked that her name not be used because she was so embarrassed.

In South Korea, an oral agreement is considered just as important as a written contract. Even unspecified obligations are taken seriously, and not following through results in a loss of "face" and



Argentina's soccer star Diego Maradona, visiting Seoul for a goodwill game with the South Korean national team, kicks the ball during a training session at a Seoul stadium (Reuters)

28-Oct. 1 visit is a game being paid \$1.75 million by his Boca Juniors and South Korea's national team. Maradona's first since being banned for using stimulants at the 1994 World Cup finals 15 months ago.

Soccer officials refused to confirm the amount, but said Reports have said he is the reports were not far off.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Inter fires coach, hires Suarez

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Internazionale of Milan, managing only one victory in four games, fired coach Ottavio Bianchi on Monday. A former Inter great, Spanish midfielder Luisito Suarez, was hired in his place. The Milan club is mired deep in the league standings and President Massimo Moratti had reportedly been considering the dismissal for weeks. The end for Bianchi came after Inter lost 2-1 Sunday to Napoli, its first defeat in Naples in six years. The team refused to comment on the coaching change, saying only that Bianchi's "work relationship has been interrupted."

Bianchi is a veteran coach, leading Napoli to the League Championship with Diego Maradona and also having coached as Roma.

Russian defends WBC flyweight title

TOKYO (AP) — Undefeated Yuri Arbakhakov, a Russian who fights out of Japan, defended his World Boxing Council (WBC) flyweight title Monday with a 12-round unanimous decision over challenger Chatchai Elite-Gym of Thailand. There were no knockdowns as Arbakhakov, fighting before a near capacity crowd of 10,000 at the Nippon Budokan, made his seventh defence of the title he won from Muangchai Kittikasem of Thailand on June 23, 1992, in Tokyo. Judge Chuck Hassett scored it 116-112, Tony Castellano 116-114 and Rudy Ortega 117-113, all for Arbakhakov. All three judges are Americans. Arbakhakov had predicted a first-round knockout, but he and Chatchai, the WBC's No. 1 flyweight contender, opened the bout with cautious probing. In the first five rounds, Arbakhakov landed a series of straight punches to Chatchai's face and body. Chatchai unleashed a series of hard uppercuts and hooks. From the sixth round on, Chatchai stopped his early circling and began frontal exchanges of blows. Arbakhakov responded with straight blows against the challenger's body. The champion jolted Chatchai several times with punches to the face in the last two rounds. "I tried my best to show my boxing. I thought I could win only in the last round," Arbakhakov said in an interview in the ring. Chatchai, who needed second round Sunday to meet the flyweight limit after being 100 grammes overweight on his first try, showed no effects in the fight of having to shed the weight quickly. Arbakhakov, winner of the 1989 World Cup Amateur Boxing Championship in Moscow, is the first fighter from the former Soviet Union to win a professional world title. Arbakhakov, from Tashkent in Russia, signed a professional contract in Japan in 1989. The victory brought his record to 21-0 with 15 knockouts. It was Chatchai's first defeat against 20 victories, including 15 by knockout. Both Arbakhakov and Chatchai weighed 50.8 kilograms.

Filipino boxer remains serious

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Filipino Boxer Fernando Piccio remained in a serious condition in the Royal Brisbane Hospital late Monday, two days after being knocked out in a bout in nearby Toowoomba. Piccio, 22, was stopped in the seventh round of an eight-round lightweight contest against Australian Selwyn Currie at the Toowoomba Showground, 125 kilometres west of Brisbane. He suffered a suspected brain hemorrhage after the bout and was taken to Toowoomba General Hospital for treatment. He was transferred to the Royal Brisbane Hospital early Sunday. The hospital said in a statement issued Monday that he was: "In a serious but stable condition." Australian National Boxing Federation (ANBF) Secretary Derek Milham said Piccio remained unconscious and on a life support machine but said doctors had advised him they do not plan immediate surgery. Milham said the hospital had told the ANBF there was pressure inside Piccio's head but no significant blood clotting. Doctors said they were trying to drain excess fluid from the fighter's head. No immediate prognosis on Piccio's prospects for recovery was available.

6 Sri Lankan players go missing

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Police were searching Monday for six members of Sri Lanka's national volleyball team who disappeared, apparently to look for jobs in South Korea. The six vanished Saturday while participating in the Sixth Asian Volleyball Championship, police said. They left a note saying they wanted jobs in Korea that would earn them more money than they could make at home. Nearly 100,000 foreigners, most of them from Sri Lanka and other Southeast Asian countries, work both legally and illegally in South Korea, mostly at menial jobs. As South Koreans living standards rise with economic growth, many South Koreans tend to shun menial jobs. The gap is filled by foreign workers.

Hateley signs for Queen's Park Rangers

LONDON (R) — Former England striker Mark Hateley has signed for Queen's Park Rangers in a 1.0 million pound (\$1.57 million) transfer from Scotland's Glasgow Rangers; the English Premier League club said on Monday. QPR Manager Ray Wilkins said: "I know Mark as a player and as a person and I'm absolutely thrilled to have him on board. His experience will be an enormous help. Our younger forwards can learn from him. To have Mark at QPR was always something I'd wanted since I've been manager here." The 33-year-old Hateley, who won some of his 32 England caps alongside Wilkins, said: "At this stage of my career I'm looking for a new challenge. I must have targets, ambitions and rewards. I now have the challenge of playing in the premiership. It's turned into a great stage in the last couple of years and I'm just looking forward to it immensely." Hateley, who is working his way back to fitness after knee and ankle surgery, has signed a two-and-a-half-year contract. The son of former Aston Villa, Chelsea and Liverpool favourite Tony, Hateley began his career at Coventry and went on to play for Portsmouth, AC Milan with Wilkins and Monaco before moving to Rangers, Scottish championships.

Marathon warning from Atlanta doctor

ATLANTA, Georgia (AP) — A top American sports doctor has warned Olympic organisers they would be running an enormous risk if the Olympic marathon is raced in the evening as planned next year. Dr. David Martin, professor of physiology at Georgia University, and president of the United States Athletics Medical Committee, says in a report that Atlanta's heat and humidity make the possible. He argues for an early morning start but International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) director general Pierre Weiss said from Monaco they had set the same marathon start time as Barcelona after consulting their own medical commission. "It's certain there will not be a record but (there will be) a winner... as in any competition," he said. However, he said the IAAF Council would listen to any request by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to change the schedule.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNHA HSIEH

AVOID THE TROUBLE

Neither vulnerable East deals. NORTH: ♠ A 7 2 ♦ Q 10 5 ♣ A K Q J 10 ♠ 9 6. WEST: ♠ K ♦ A 9 8 ♣ J 10 4 ♠ Q 9 8 6 5 3 ♦ 7 ♣ 6 5 ♠ K 8 7 5. The bidding: EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH: 2 - Pass 2 NT 3 0 4 - Pass 4 - Pass. Opening lead: Ace of ♠. Keep the danger hand off lead! This sound piece of advice can be used by the defenders, but it is more appropriate for the declarer's general. This hand is from the Grand National Team Championship, played in San Diego in August. Sitting in the cabaret seat was Eric Rodwell of West Lafayette, Ind., one of the world's great play-

ers. East's two diamonds was artificial. West requested clarification and East's rebid revealed a weak two-bid in hearts. The double of four spades showed scant respect for Rodwell's dummy play technique.

West led the ace of hearts and continued the suit, declarer ruffing. Providing no more than one trump had been a losing idea as East had a lead in spades and a potentially fatal lead through the king of clubs. There was no point in delaying matters, so declarer led a low trump and West produced the king. Most players would instinctively wait the next three cards. Later, East would grab the lead with a trump, ruffing a third diamond, if necessary, and a club shift would seal the contract's fate. Rodwell easily avoided all these problems. Since a spade trick had to be won, he led a spade and when declarer ruffed, he simply allowed West's king of spades to hold the trick. No matter what West did, after regaining the heart, declarer would draw trumps and score five trump tricks and five diamonds — a total of 10 in all.

CINEMA TEL: 634144 **PHILADELPHIA** Liam Neeson & Jessica Lange in **Rob Roy** Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45

CINEMA TEL: 699238 **PLAZA** Mahmoud Yassin / hussein Fahmi in **NUT SHELL** Arabic Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL: 677420 **CONCORD "1"** Adel Imam & Yusra Birds of the Darkness (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 10:45 **CONCORD "2"** Police Academy "Mission to Moscow" Shows: 4, 6, 8, 10

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Sports

Egypt, Ivory Coast reach Champion's Cup semi-finals

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Title favourites Ismailia of Egypt and ASEC of Ivory Coast reached the African Champion's Cup semi-finals at the week-end despite being held goalless at home.

They were joined to the penultimate stage of the premier club competition by South Africa's Orlando Pirates, who outclassed Gabonese visitors Mbilinga 3-0.

Ismailia, seeking to keep the cup in North African hands for the 12th consecutive year, face ASEC next month for a place in the decider while Pirates await the winners of a postponed match between Dynamos of Zimbabwe and Express of Uganda.

Defending champions Esperance, one goal behind following the first leg in Tunisia, surrendered the title after drawing to Ismailia while ASEC, with a two-goal cushion against Ghanians Abuasi Goldfields, disappointed a capacity of 50,000 crowd in Abidjan by failing to find the net.

The elimination of Esperance confirmed a jinx hanging over the title holders as no club has successfully defended the symbol of continental supremacy since 1968 when TP Englebert of Zaire defeated Etoile Filante of Togo.

Pirates, anxious since losing to a last-minute goal in Libreville, were ahead at FNB stadium when Helman Mkhalele headed a John Moeti cross past goalkeeper Mendou Germain.

A defend drive by Brendan Silent put the Buccaneers two goals ahead before half-time and Jerry Skosana completed the scoring with a

close range shot two minutes from the final whistle.

Cup Winners' Cup holders Daring Club Motema Pembe of Zaire also bowed out, losing 2-0 to Julius Berger in Nigeria, where Taiwo Oloyede converted a first-half penalty and Ikponmwosa Omorogie struck the decisive goal in the 65th minute.

Hearts of Oak from Ghana, one of the best clubs never to lift an African Cup, will have to wait at least one more year to fulfil the ambition despite a 2-1 success in Accra over experienced Algerians JS Kabylie.

A 40,000 crowd crammed into the national stadium sensed a glorious day for Ghana when Thomas Quaye converted two penalty kicks within 8 minutes midway through the first half.

These goals put the West Africans ahead under the away-goal rule, but Maliedine Meftah reduced the arrears 10 minutes into the second half and Kabylie squeezed through on aggregate.

Malindi of Tanzania caused an upset in the CAF Cup, the competition for championship runners up by winning 2-0 to Togo against Azaga, who had looked set to advance following a goalless first leg.

The damage was done in a seven-minute, first-half spell when national player Edmundo Lunyamala and Bakala Djouma scored for a visiting team bolstered by several Zambian stars.

Tunisians Etoile du Sahel also triumphed away, slaming three goals past Ferroviar in Mozambique without reply to complete the most decisive victory of the quarter-finals.

Irish man to join Schumacher at Ferrari

MARANELLO, Italy (R) — Ferrari named Eddie Irvine on Tuesday as their second driver for the 1996 Formula One season alongside defending world champion Michael Schumacher of Germany.

The brief announcement said Irvine, a 29-year-old Briton from Northern Ireland, would switch from Jordan under a deal that could hold good for up to three seasons, thanks to "good relations" between the two teams.

It gave no financial details.

The Italian newspaper Corriere dello Sport speculated that Ferrari may have to pay up to \$5 million in goodwill money to Jordan, which only last Thursday confirmed Irvine and Brazilian Rubens Barrichello as its 1996 drivers.

Ferrari have been hunting for a teammate for Schumacher since an announcement four weeks ago that Austrian Gerhard Berger would follow Frenchman Jean Alesi to Benetton, the team the German world championship leader is leaving.

It had initially signalled that a decision would be made public after the Grand Prix of Europe in Germany on Oct. 14.

Tuesday's statement said: "Ferrari announces that Eddie Irvine will drive alongside Michael Schumacher in the next Formula One world championship."

The agreement, which is extendable to the 1997 and 1998 sporting seasons, was reached today thanks to good relations between Ferrari and Jordan-Peugeot.

Irvine, who began motor racing at the age of 18, has spent his entire Formula One career at Jordan, which he joined in 1993.

He has contested 28 Formula One races, with a best finish of third in the Canadian Grand Prix on June 11. He lies 13th in the championship standing with six

points.

Ironically, Barrichello had been the Jordan driver linked to a possible move to Ferrari.

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Anand beats Kasparov, ends string of draws

NEW YORK (R) — Indian challenger Viswanathan Anand pumped new enthusiasm into the World Chess Championship on Monday with a dramatic victory over champion Garry Kasparov of Russia.

Anand was playing with the advantage of the white pieces and the first move, similar to holding the serve in tennis.

Kasparov, 32, resigned the ninth game after Anand's 35th move in the first decisive result of the best-of-20 Professional Chess Association match so far.

The players had set a record in the past two weeks by drawing the opening eight games.

"Now we're going to have a real match," declared Argentine Grandmaster Miguel Najdorf, one of several experts to praise the 25-year-old Anand for attacking Kasparov with his favourite system, the Sicilian Defence.

The challenger leads the match by five points to four, but he was typically modest at the post-game news conference.

"It's the first time I've beaten him for a while, so it's nice," he said. "There's still 11 games left... it's about as well as I've played so far."

The victor will be the first to reach 10½ points and receive almost \$1 million from the sponsor Intel Corp. Kasparov would keep the title in the event of a 10-10 tie and the total prize money of about \$1.5 million would be shared. One point is awarded

for a win and a ½ point for a draw.

Anand was playing with the advantage of the white pieces and the first move, similar to holding the serve in tennis.

"All of his pieces are buried in, they all have only one square, but they're coiled and bristling and by the time you get him out of the hole, you could be exhausted," he said.

Out of the opening, grandmaster and three-times U.S. champion Yasser Seirawan, compared Kasparov's situation to that of a hedgehog.

"All of his pieces are buried in, they all have only one square, but they're coiled and bristling and by the time you get him out of the hole, you could be exhausted," he said.

Kasparov, who is defending his crown for the fifth time, could not find the counter-attacking resources necessary to ward off Anand's queen, bishop and three pawns that had infiltrated his position.

When Anand won a vital pawn on his 34th turn and then followed it up with a

defensive king move, the Russian realised he could not

win or even hold on for

another draw and offered a handshake in resignation.

The several hundred spec-



Champion Garry Kasparov (right) of Russia, stares at challenger Viswanathan Anand of India during the 9th game of their best-of-20 games World Chess Championship, at the World Trade Centre in New York (Reuters photo)

tators applauded loudly for Anand as he left the sound-proof glass booth where the

games are being played. The 10th game will be played on Tuesday.

Record number of draws bores outsiders, increases chess tension

NEW YORK (AP) — It is the one chess record nobody wants to break.

The eight consecutive draws that started the title bout between world champion Garry Kasparov and challenger Vishwanathan Anand has been boring for outsiders, frustrating for insiders, and a big worry for U.S. chess promoters.

"It's not computers that are killing chess, it's the draws," said one spectator after the seventh game ended in a tie after less than two hours play.

The sequence of draws may be less annoying overseas, where sports fans are used to frequent ties in soccer

and to five-day internationals in cricket that often peter out to a draw.

This contest, however, is taking place in the United States. This is, after all, the place where the phrase "a draw is like kissing your sister" was coined, and where two of the nation's top sports, baseball and basketball, are structured to preclude draws.

While chess beginners hardly ever draw their games, the number of ties tends to increase proportionately with the strength of the players and their increasingly sophisticated defensive techniques.

But there's at least one person who remains fairly content with the quiet start, Anand, universally perceived

as the pre-match underdog, has proven that he can hold the 32-year-old Russian titleholder with ease. That opens up the genuine possibility that Anand, 25, of India, could unseat the world champion.

Kasparov, in his 1993 title defence with British grandmaster Nigel Short, blew away his opponent with three victories in the first four games and the Englishman never recovered.

Many chess experts believe that if Anand could survive Kasparov's early onslaught, his chances will increase.

"If you have two people that are very good and very aware of the danger of making a mistake, you tend to get a lot of draws and that's

what's happening here," said former U.S. champion Patrick Wolff, who is working as one of Anand's trainers during the 20-game contest.

"However, as the match goes on and continues to be so close, eventually each player will take more risks to upset the balance."

Wolff, who lives in Somerville, Massachusetts, and is an avid fan of the U.S. Major League baseball club the Boston Red Sox, compared the sequence of draws to

"everybody likes a baseball game with a lot of home runs, but real baseball fans know and understand that the best baseball games are very well pitched and are often decided by a few hits."

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New Olympic cash share-out for 2004

LAUSANNE (AFP) — International sports federations will pick up a 10 per cent increase in Olympic television revenue, which should amount to at least \$70 million from 2004, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said here Monday.

IOC Director General

Francois Carrard said receipts for the host city would be cut from 60 per cent to 49 per cent, with international federations getting about 10 per cent more.

The Executive Board meeting at Nagoya, Japan, in December will decide

exactly how the money will be shared out to give candidates for the 2004 Games time to reconsider before the Jan. 10 deadline for bids.

Sydney, which will host the 2000 Games, has negotiated \$715 million for U.S. broadcasting rights alone, compared to the

international federations had been demanding

a bigger cut of television money for several years.

Cape Town, St. Petersburg, Stockholm, Seville, Rome, Lille or Lyon, Boston, Osaka, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, San Juan and perhaps Beijing are candidates for the 2004 Games.

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Announcement To the Business Community

By
Jordan Export Development & Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO)



Being the National Counsellor of European Business Partnership Organizing Scheme - Europartenariat, we invite you to participate in :

Europartenariat Portugal 1995

That will take place in the city of Lisbon / Portugal during the period 24-25/11/1995. Over 400 Portuguese companies from the following sectors will be participating in the event :

- 1) Food products & beverages .
- 2) Textiles, clothing & Footwear.
- 3) Furniture, wood & Cork.
- 4) Paper & Printing Industry.
- 5) Chemical industry, & Plastic Products.
- 6) Ceramics & Non - metallic Mineral Products . (including handicrafts).
- 7) Metal working & processing .
- 8) Machinery & Equipment .
- 9) Electric Engineering & Electronics.
- 10) Services & Trade.

Participating Portuguese companies will be ready to go into partnership business deals and joint ventures with interested Jordanian businessmen. This will cover all areas of technical, commercial and service partnership.

For more information, please call our International Cooperation Department (Tel: 603507), or visit our offices located behind the Ministry of Industry & Trade. The Deadline for receiving the filled in application forms will be Thursday 19/10/1995.

Iraq, Kuwait resume talks on missing

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwaiti and Iraqi experts met near the border for the second time in a month on Tuesday to discuss the fate of people who went missing in Iraq's 1990-91 occupation, a U.N. official said.

The talks, chaired by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), took place on the Iraqi side of the frontier and will probably go into a second day, the spokesman for the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) said.

The 32-nation observer force, which patrols a 15 kilometre wide demilitarised border strip set up after the 1991 Gulf war, is hosting the meeting at its headquarters in the Iraqi town of Um Qasr but has no further role in the event.

The two sides held two days of talks on the Kuwaiti side of the border on Aug. 29 and 30 in the longest session of formal meetings the two countries have ever held on the issue.

The meetings are the latest in a series by a technical working group of a Geneva-based commission investigating the Gulf war missing issue.

Kuwait wants Iraq to account for 600 Kuwaitis and Kuwait-based nationals from other countries who disappeared during the occupation and the six-week war that ended it.

Kuwait and its ally the United States say a full accounting is one of several conditions Iraq must meet before economic sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion can be lifted.

Iraq has said it has freed all those it captured during the occupation but has promised to investigate the issue further.

The UNIKOM spokesman said he believed Kuwait-based diplomats from the United States, Britain, France and Saudi Arabia were also attending the talks. These nations say several dozen of their nationals are also missing.

A Kuwaiti official said in August that Baghdad had admitted for the first time that 116 prisoners were taken to Iraq during the occupation. Previously Baghdad said only 73 prisoners had been taken and that it had lost trace of them in the aftermath of the war.

However, Iraq denied the Kuwaiti official's claim.

Iraq and Kuwait have met 13 times in Geneva to discuss the prisoners and missing.

Kuwait said meanwhile it estimated its claim for environmental damage caused by Iraq's occupation would amount to about 2.25 billion dinars (\$7.5 billion).

"The figure is only an estimate. We haven't done the detailed work on the claims (Continued on page 7)



A Palestinian passes by a group of Israeli soldiers in Hebron, where tension remains high following the initialing of the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy accord which left Israel in control over parts of the West Bank town (AFP photo)

Autonomy council will not replace PLO, Qouriea says

CAIRO (AFP) — A new self-rule council will not replace the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the "supreme" authority in the Palestinian territories.

The Palestinian Economy Minister Ahmad Qouriea told the Arabic daily Al Hayat on Tuesday.

The council, to be elected in line with an autonomy deal reached Sunday by Israel and the PLO, is "a legislative council. I can call it a council of representatives," Mr. Qouriea said.

"But it is too early to consider a replacement to the Palestinian National Council (PNC) or the PLO. That is not permissible. It would be destructive," the Palestinians' top negotiator with Israel said.

The PLO, based in Tunis, represents inhabitants inside the territories and diaspora Palestinians, who make up four-fifths of the PNC, the Palestinians' parliament in exile.

"The PLO will conduct negotiations until the rights of the Palestinians are realised and the elected council will serve as one of its instruments," Mr. Qouriea said.

The PNC is the "supreme basic authority. The new council is a body for the Palestinian (National) Authority (PNA) on the ground.

But it does not decide the future of the Palestinian people nor agreements with Israel."

The council "will be like one of (the PNC's) committees and it will serve for the transition period only," he said.

"We expect after final status talks a new entity and a new authority. There will not be refugees and displaced. Those who return will return and relations with those who remain outside will in some way be organised," Mr. Qouriea said.

"But this council will not be the council of the new entity."

Talks on the final status of the territories are due to start in May 1996. The interim period of Palestinian self-government, which was launched in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May 1994, is to last five years with the permanent status due to come into force from 1999.

Elections for the 82-member autonomy council and a separately elected president are expected to be held around March 1996 according to the agreement initialised in Taba, Egypt, by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Mr. Qouriea said the accord's provisions for a redeployment of the Israeli army from population centres in the West Bank would, in its first stage, give the Palestinians control of "four or five per cent" of the territories.

"But in the agreement we were able to get (control) of a total 31 per cent," after further redeployments, he said.

The three-stage redeployment will "complete the boundaries of the Palestinian state except for the matters to be considered in final status talks."

The status of the (Jewish settlements, which are eight per cent of the land), Jerusalem, which is one per cent, and three to five per cent called military border regions" will be negotiated starting May, Mr. Qouriea said.

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The accord outlined three regions for an Israeli redeployment. In areas A and B, the main towns and villages of the West Bank, the Israeli army is to withdraw except for Hebron where it will redeploy, while preserving security rights in area B.

In area C, unpopulated areas of strategic importance to Israel, the army will remain but the self-rule council will have civil powers.

Mr. Qouriea said Palestinian gains in the accords were "more than I expected" from negotiations and that the land area to be handed over was more than provided for in the 1993 Oslo autonomy agreements.

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